LETTERS
TO THE
KING,
THE
Prince of *ORANGE*,
THE
Chief Miniſters of State,
AND OTHER
PERSONS.

By Sir W. TEMPLE, *Bar^t.*

Being the Third and Laſt Volume.

Publiſhed by *Jonathan Swift*, D. D.

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To

His Excellency, Count Magalotti,
Councellor of State to His
Most Serene Highness, the
Great Duke of Tuscany.

By His Excellency's

most obedient



and

most humble Servant.

Jonathan Swift.

THE

PREFACE.

THE following Papers are the laſt of this, or indeed of any kind; about which the Author ever gave me his particular Commands. They were Corrected by Himſelf; and fairly Tranſcribed in his Life time. I have in all Things followed his Directions as ſtrictly as I could: But Accidents unforeſeen having ſince intervened; I have thought convenient to leſſen the Bulk of this Volume. *To which End I*

have Omitted ſeveral LETTERS *Addreſſed to Perſons with whom this* Author *Correſponded without any particular Confidence, farther than upon account of their Poſts: Becauſe great Numbers of ſuch* LETTERS, *procured out of the Office; or, by other means (how juſtifiable I ſhall not examine) have been already* Printed: *But running wholly upon long dry Subjects of Buſineſs, have met no other Reputation than meerly what the* Reputation *of the* Author *would give them. If I could have foreſeen an End of this Trade, I ſhould upon ſome Conſiderations have longer forborn ſending theſe into the* World.

But

But I daily hear, that new Diſcoveries of Original LETTERS *are haſting to the* Preſs: *To ſtop the Current of which, I am forced to an earlier Publication than I deſigned. And therefore I take this Occaſion to inform the* Reader; *that theſe* Letters *ending with the* Author's *Revocation from his Employments abroad (which in leſs than two Years was followed by his Retirement from all publick Buſineſs) are the laſt he ever intended for the* Preſs; *having been Selected by himſelf from great Numbers yet lying among his Papers.*

If I could have been prevailed with by the Rhetorick *of* Bookſellers, *or any other*

little Regards; I might eaſily, inſtead of Retrenching, *have made very conſiderable* Additions; *and by that means have perhaps taken the ſureſt Courſe to prevent the Interloping of others. But, if the* Preſs *muſt needs be loaded; I had rather it ſhould not be by my means. And therefore I may hope to be allowed one Word in the Style of a* Publiſher, *(an Office lyable to much Cenſure, without the leaſt Pretenſion to Merit or to Praiſe) that, if I have not been much deceived by others and myſelf; the* Reader *will hardly find*

one

one Letter *in this* Collection *unworthy of the* Author, *or which does not contain ſomething either of Entertainment or of Uſe.*

To

TO THE PRINCE of *ORANGE.*

Sheen, Febr. ——— 167¾

SIR,

THough the Honour I expected of attending Your Highneſs upon ſo great and ſo happy a Conjuncture, has not befallen me; and His Majeſty's late Reſolutions, for my ſudden Journey into *Holland*, have been diverted, by Occaſions, that made way for a more ſpeedy concluſion of the Peace: Yet I could not be ſatisfy'd, without making uſe of Sir *Gabriel Silvius*'s favour to me, in charging himſelf with this Trouble; by which, I might, at the ſame time, give Your Highneſs the particular Account of all that has paſs'd, in this late Tranſaction here; and withal rejoice with you, upon the happy Succeſſes, that have attended your Affairs, on the other ſide: In which, I will aſſure Your Highneſs, both His Majeſty, and all His Good Subjects, have taken ſuch a ſhare, as has very much contributed, to

the eaſy and ſuddain Diſpatch of this great Affair; wherein, both your Highneſs and the States, and indeed the Happineſs and Safety of both Nations, are ſo nearly concern'd. For my own part, I will only ſay, That as no Man gave ſo Publick and ſo avowed Teſtimonies of the Devotion and Honour, I have always had at Heart, for Your Highneſs's Perſon and Service; and of the Eſteem that I knew was from all Men due to You, in the greateſt Decline of Your Fortune: So, at this time, when Your Highneſs will receive the general Complements and Applauſes of all Men; there is none among them, that can take a more particular Part in Your Highneſs's good Fortunes, nor make more paſſionate Wiſhes for their Continuance and Increaſe. But I know Your Highneſs does me ſo much Juſtice, as to believe all that can be ſaid from me of this kind, unneceſſary. Therefore I ſhall proceed to tell Your Highneſs, that upon receipt of the States laſt Letter, with deſire of Paſsports for their Ambaſſadors, and Offers of a Ceſſation of Arms: His Majeſty was pleaſed, upon the 3d Current, being *Tueſday* Morning, to declare at the Committee of Foreign Affairs, that having thought of it in the Night, He was reſolved, for preventing all Delays, that attend

tend the coming of Ambaſſadors hither, to ſend over into *Holland*; and that He would ſend me with the Project of a Treaty, and full Powers to conclude immediately, if the States were in the Mind they expreſt of doing Him Juſtice. This was receiv'd with ſo great a Concurrence, that I was immediately ſent for, acquainted with His Majeſty's Intentions, and commanded to be ready to begin my Journey the next Day, and to attend upon the two Secretaries of State, that Afternoon, at the drawing both the Project, and my Inſtructions. I told the King, I would obey Him; but that I might the better do it, I begged of Him, that I might go without any Character of Ambaſſador; which would delay me, with the Preparations of Equipage here, and embarras me with Ceremonies there, unneceſſary to ſo ſudden a Diſpatch. His Majeſty thought it reaſonable; and ſo gave order, I ſhould go without any other Character, than of Plenipotentiary; but gave me the Appointment of all kinds of an Ambaſſador, which He told me, I muſt take upon me, when the Peace was concluded.

The Project and Inſtructions, could not be finiſhed till *Wedneſday* at Evening, nor the Commiſſion ſealed till *Thurſday* at

Noon, which was deſigned for my ſetting out; and in order to it, I had kiſs'd the King's and Duke's Hands, late on *Wedneſday* Night, and received their Letters to Your Highneſs, and ſent away my Servants toward *Harwich*, on *Thurſday* Morning. But about Ten a Clock, the ſame Day, arrived the Pacquet, by a Trumpeter from *Holland*, which brought full Powers to the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador, to treat and conclude the Peace: Upon the knowledge whereof, I went immediately to the King, and told him how inconvenient it would be, to expoſe the Treaty to the Accidents of a Journey, of Seas, and of Weather, when it might be finiſh'd here, perhaps before I could be at *Harwich*. Beſides, that it would be more Honour for His Majeſty, to treat it here, than at the *Hague*, which was an Expedient only for diſpatch, and therefore begg'd of his Majeſty, that no conſideration of me might divert him from falling into the Buſineſs here, at leaſt, till he ſaw it could not be effected. The King was pleaſed with what I ſaid, ſent me immediately to the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador, to bring an Account of his Powers, and has done me the honour, to make me treat the whole Thing with his Excellency

in

in all its Points, ſo as to leave Occaſion only for the Commiſſioners to meet once on *Saturday*, to agree upon drawing up the Treaty; and yeſterday again at Four a Clock for ſigning it. But after all this was agreed, and before that Hour was come, I was forced by an Accident in Town, to come down into the Country for Two or Three Days, and ſo have the Mortification of not ſeeing Sir *Gabriel Silvius*, before his going away with the Ratifications, which *I* left the King reſolved he ſhould do this Night.

It is not fit to entertain your Highneſs farther from the Countrey; but I hope, upon my Return to Town, to have his Majeſty's Leave to ſend Your Highneſs, by next Poſt, the Letters, he was pleaſed to encharge me with; as likewiſe that from the Duke, with very particular Expreſſions from them both, which I ſuppoſe, you will not be willing to loſe, though you may receive of a later Date; In the mean time, I beg your Highneſs to believe, that upon all Occaſions, I ſhall be infinitely proud and pleaſed, to give you the beſt

Teſtimonies, of the ſincereſt and devoutеſt Paſſion, wherewith I have been ſo long, and ſhall ever be

SIR,

Your Highneſs's &c.

To Sir *John Temple.*

London, Febr. 17. 167[illegible].

SIR,

I did not think, a fortnight ago, that you would hear from me, at this time, from this Place, having been unexpectedly deſigned another Way, which you have had ſome Account of from my Siſter: But 'tis fit you receive a more particular one from me, upon an Occaſion, which I know you will not be diſpleaſed with, both as to what concerns the Publick, and my Self. You will eaſily imagine the Neceſſities, that prevailed with the King and his Miniſters, to fall into the Councils of making a ſudden Peace with *Holland*. So ſoon, as this Reſolution was taken privately among them, my Lord *Arlington* ſent for me, and told me of it; and

and that, at the ſame time, the King and my Lord Treaſurer, both together, at the Foreign Committee (ſo as He could not ſay, which of them named me firſt) propoſed my being ſent over, upon this Occaſion; and the King added, that there was no Man elſe, to be thought of; and ſo had commanded him, to ſend for me, and acquaint me with it. I told him, I ſhould obey His Majeſty, as became me, and much the rather, upon a Point by which I thought he fell into His true Intereſt, wherein my Opinions were but too well known. After this, I went to the King, and ſaid the ſame Things; and what elſe I eſteemed proper, upon that Occaſion; and that I would ſerve Him, as well as I could, though I doubted I was grown a little ruſty, by lying ſtill ſo long; and begun to ſhrink at a hard Journy, in ſuch a cruel Seaſon, after having given my ſelf, all the Eaſe I could, for three Years at home. The King Smiled, and ſaid, He would anſwer for me. I told Him, That would give me Confidence; but there was another Point, I deſired to govern my ſelf; which was, that my Lord *Arlington* having told me I was to go Ambaſſador, I had no mind to charge my ſelf with that Character, upon ſo ſudden a Journy, and an Affair, that

ought to be ſudden too. That the greateſt piece of Service I had ever done Him, in all my Employments abroad, which was that of the Tripple Alliance, I had treated and concluded in five Days, and with the Character of Envoy; and I was confident, I could never have done it, if I had been Ambaſſador: That the Ceremonies of it hindred the Buſineſs where it preſs'd. That having been twice Ambaſſador, I needed not to value my ſelf upon this Occaſion, eſpecially in *Holland*, where I was well enough known: And therefore, I deſired I might go with the Character of Envoy Extraordinary, and for this particular Affair only of the *Peace*. That when this was made, His Majeſty might ſend what Perſon, and what Character He pleaſed over, to reſide there, and go on with the Meaſures He ſhould have taken.

The King, ſeemed very much to approve what I ſaid; and told me, that of Ambaſſador was only thought of, becauſe I had been Ambaſſador before; and they thought I would not be content, to go without it; but He ſaw, I was a wiſer Man, and I ſhould not loſe by it; for though I went without the Character, yet I ſhould have the Pay of an Ambaſſador; and if I ſhould ſtay in *Holland*, after the Peace

Peace was made, I ſhould then have the Character. Hereupon, in two Days time, my Inſtructions were drawn up, my ſmall Equipage prepared, and my Servants ſent before to *Harwich*, where I intended to follow, Poſt, the day after: But I would not ſuffer either my Wife or Siſter to engage in ſo haſty a Journy, and at ſo ill a time of Year; though they were neither of them willing to let me go away alone, out of care of my Health, which I promiſed to take my ſelf, and deſerve their good Opinion in it.

The very day, I was to go, came in an *Expreſs* from *Holland*, with full Powers from the *States*, to the Marquis of *Freſno* (the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador here) to treat and conclude the Peace. My Lord *Arlington* immediately acquainted me with it, and deſired, I would go to the King, who was then at the Houſe of *Lords*, and tell Him, this new Incident, and know His Pleaſure upon it; his Lordſhip ſeeming a little in Pain at my Part in it. But I told him, I thought the Buſineſs had this way a better Turn than they themſelves had given it: That it would not only be diſpatch'd here with leſs Time, but with more Honor to His Majeſty than at the *Hague*: That for my Part, I was ſo far from being diſappointed, that I was very

glad

glad of it; that I confeſs'd I wiſh'd the thing, but ſo it were done, was not fond of having any part in it, and therefore was of Opinion, they ſhould preſently fall in Treaty with the Marquiſs, and ſo I would go and tell the King.

I will not tell you how pleaſed my Lord *Arlington* was with this Anſwer, nor how obliging Things he ſaid to me upon it; but I was ſorry he knew me ſo ill, as not to expect it, the thing being ſo right: I went to the King, ſaid the ſame to him, which found the ſame Reception; and he told me, though I did not treat it at the *Hague*, yet he was ſure I ſhould treat it here; and accordingly he ſent for the Marquiſs that Afternoon, and told him, he would ſend me to him that Evening, to fall into the Treaty; and that if he could agree with me, he ſhould reckon upon the thing done.

I had my Orders, went to the Marquiſs, and we concluded all Points in three Days, though there was one of ſome Difficulty: The Inſtruments were diſpatch'd with the ſame Diligence, and ſigned by the Marquiſs and the King's Commiſſioners. And ſo that great Affair ended, to the infinite Satisfaction of all People here, as I doubt not, it will be in *Spain* and *Holland*, and give a great Turn, to the Conjunctures abroad.

Some

Some Days after this Concluſion, my Lord *Arlington* told me, the King thought fit to recal Sir *William Godolphin* out of *Spain*, upon ſeveral Conſiderations, but chiefly upon Reports, that had run of his Religion, which would not be very pleaſing in the Parliament, with whom the King was reſolved to live well; and therefore had ordered him to make me the Offer of going into *Spain*. That having been Ambaſſador in Ordinary ſo long ago, the King thought it was but Reaſon I ſhould make ſome Advance, and ſo would have me go Ambaſſador Extraordinary, which, to that Crown, was the Employment of moſt Dignity, and moſt Advantage of any other abroad.

I deſired his Lordſhip to make his Majeſty my moſt humble Acknowledgments, for ſo many and ſuch unſought for Honours, which were beyond what I could deſerve: But that the Thing was new; and that I had learnt, by a *Spaniſh* Proverb, not to make a ſuddain Anſwer to a ſuddain Queſtion. That beſides, the Journey was long, and You formerly had an Averſion to my undertaking it; that I could not do it now, without firſt conſulting You, whom I would not diſobey. That I therefore deſired his Lordſhip to excuſe my anſwering the King till I had written, and had an Anſwer from You. This

This is all I have to ſay, but that I leave it with you, to conſult if you pleaſe, with my Brother, and ſend me your Reſolution as ſoon as you can. I find my Wife inclined to it, both upon Reſpects of Advantages to my Fortune, and my Health, which ſhe thinks ſuffered much in *Holland*. My Siſter, though the better *Spaniard*, has no great mind to it. For my own part, I am pretty indifferent; I like the Climate; but you know I never cared for a Remove, being ever apt to like the Place and Condition I am in; and if I have a mind to mend it, I believe I cannot want Occaſions, upon this great Revolution, and the Return of our Councils to the Point, where I left them, three or four Years ago.

I ſhall give you no farther Trouble at this Time, but expect your Anſwer, and remain ever,

SIR,

Your, &c.

To the Prince of *Orange*.

London, Febr. 28. 167$\frac{3}{4}$.

SIR,

I Thought, Your Highneſs would not be diſpleaſed, with receiving thoſe Marks of Kindneſs, from His Majeſty and the Duke which they intended You by me, though You have, I know, receiv'd others, of a freſher Date. Therefore, by Leave from them both, I ſend You incloſed the Letters I had the Honor to be charged with, when I kiſt their Hands upon my intended Journy into *Holland*. The Compliments I was commanded to carry Your Highneſs from their Mouths (beſides what went from their Hands) were, I will aſſure You, very particular. Eſpecially thoſe from His Majeſty; to tell You how great an Inducement to the Peace, Your Highneſs's Advancement to the hereditary Dignity, had been and with how much more Confidence, He could now fall into good Meaſures with *Holland*, than before. And thoſe from the Duke, when at the End of a great deal ſpoken, very kindly, He bid me aſſure You, that He lookt upon Your High-

Highneſs's Intereſts, as the ſame with the King's and His own; and that if there were any Thing, wherein You could uſe His Service, You might be ſure of it. I replyed, Pray *Sr.* remember, there is nothing You except, and You do not know, how far a young Prince's Deſire may go; but I am reſolved to tell Him what You ſay, and if there be Occaſion, to be a Witneſs of it: The Duke ſmiled; Well, well, You may tell Him what I bid You: Upon which I ſaid; At leaſt I will tell the Prince, that You ſmiled when I told You ſo, which I am ſure, is a great deal better, than if You had frowned. I know your Highneſs, will eaſily pardon me, for entertaining you with theſe Circumſtances; but I will ſay no more of this kind, unleſs you give me Encouragement; nor of any other, to encreaſe your Trouble, at this Time; unleſs it be, that if in any Thing, either ſmall or great, Your Highneſs can find my Services uſeful to you here; you will ever find them at your Devotion, in a manner very particular, and that no Man alive, can be with more Paſſion or more Truth.

SIR,

Your Highneſs's moſt obedient, and moſt humble Servant.

To

To Sir *John Temple.*

London, March 27. 1674.

SIR;

UPon your expreſſion of ſo much diſlike to my Journy into *Spain*; I acquainted the King with it; and gave That, for the only reaſon, of my excuſing my ſelf from it. I made His Majeſty, at the ſame time, the greateſt Acknowledgments I could, for the Honor he had done me, by the Offer of it; and aſſured him, how glad I ſhould be, to deſerve ſo good an Opinion, as He had pleaſed to expreſs in thinking me worthy of an Employment, which, for my own Part, I eſteemed one of the beſt he had to give. The King was pleaſed to reply very graciouſly, that He thought ſo too, but yet He intended me a better; That he had been long engaged in the Remove at preſent deſigned, but that upon the next, he was reſolved, I ſhould have it, He was pleaſed to ſay no more, but walked away; and I ſeemed to take no Notice of what he meant. But the day after, I told all that had paſt to my Lord *Arlington*: He ſeemed a good deal ſurpriſed, at my refuſing

ſing the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſy, and ſaid, He believed the King had few Subjects that would not be glad of it: That he had ſo little expected it, that he had told the Marquiſs of *Freſno* of the King's Reſolution in it: That for his own part, unleſs I was ſure of his Secretary's Place, he ſhould not yet adviſe me to refuſe the other.

This was ſaid, with a Face, and in a Way, ſomething graver than his had been of late towards me, and I confeſs, ſurprized me more, than he pretended, I had done him. I told him, that I did not at all know what he meant, by ſaying; If I were not ſure of his Secretary's Place; That it was a Thing I never had once in my Thoughts, but when he had put it there, a great while ago, upon the Reſolution of Sir *John Trevor*'s coming into the other: That my Circumſtances had been ſince much changed; and he knew I had thought of nothing, but my Garden and a Private Life, for theſe three or four years paſt, till the King ſent for me upon this Peace with *Holland*. That he knew what had paſſed ſince, and he knew all; for I was no man of Myſtery nor Intrigue; That I went abroad, when the King called me; and I liked my Errand; and when theſe did not happpen, I ſtayed at home.

But

But I was ſtill deſirous to know what gave him Occaſion of ſaying that to me; for what the King had ſaid could not be interpretend to mean any ſuch thing.

He told me, that he knew I was related to my Lord Treaſurer, and hear'd I was much in his Favour; that he was now the Great Man, and could do what he pleaſed, and thought he might do this, among other things, and could not imagine I would refuſe the *Spaniſh* Embaſſy, unleſs my Lord Treaſurer and I had agreed upon the other. I found where this Matter pinch'd, and ſaid ſmiling, That he was never more miſtaken in his Life: That it was true, my Wife was related to my Lord Treaſurer; and that we were great Companions, when we were both together young Travellers and Tennis Players in *France*: But that for near twenty years paſt, we had not at all fallen in one anothers way, till upon what had paſſed ſince the late Councils, about a Peace with *Holland*, in which our Opinions ſeemed to agree: That ſince, we had met ſometimes, but not often, nor in any Confidences. That I knew he was a great Man, but could not tell yet, to what Points of the Compaſs, he intended to ſteer: That I left him, as I did every Body elſe, to take his own Meaſures; and for mine he knew very well how little I troubled my Friends about them.

Upon this he began with another Countenance than in the beginning of this Converſation, to tell me, that he eaſily believed all I told him; that he was ſo far from diſliking my being well, with my Lord Treaſurer, how ill ſoever he was with him, that he adviſed me, as a Friend, to be as well with him as I could. That he confeſs'd he thought I might have entered with him into a Concert, of getting into his Place, inſtead of Sir *Joſeph Williamſon*, which would have been no Injury to him, for he knew I would not think of it, but upon the ſame Terms as the other: That ſince we were fallen into this Diſcourſe, he would go farther with me, and tell me, 'twas true he had a good while had a mind to leave the toil of his Place, and perhaps the Envy; and ſo had agreed with Sir *Joſeph Williamſon*, to come in, and give him ſix thouſand Pounds, when my Lord St. *Albans* ſhould be willing to part with the Chamberlain's Staff, for which he was to give him ten. That my Lord St. *Albans* had been of late very much unreſolved in this Matter, and he knew not when he would fix: That whenever he did, he was engaged in the other to Sir *Joſeph Williamſon*, by the King's Conſent, and would do nothing to break it. But if I had a mind, and could make Intereſt enough in my

Lord

Lord Treaſurer to turn it another way, and bring my Lord St. *Albans* to a Reſolution, he would leave me wholly to play my own Game; and for his own part, it ſhould be all one to him, from whom he received the ſix thouſand Pounds: and he would not only be paſſive in it, but if the King ſhould ask his Opinion, as to the Fitneſs or Capacity of the Perſons, he would tell it him freely with all the Preference to me that I deſerved.

I gave his Lordſhip many thanks for the Kindneſs and Frankneſs of this Diſcourſe; but I told him, I believed it need go no farther. That for my own part, I was both againſt his going out of the Secretary's Place, and againſt my own or any Body's coming into it for Money; and I ended this Converſation with ſaying a great deal, to diſſuade him from leaving his Place.

About three or four Days after, Mr. *Sidney* told me, that my Lord *Arlington* had ſpoken to Mr. *Mountague* about what had paſſed between us, and with a great deal of Kindneſs of me, eſpecially for being ſo earneſt with him to keep his Place, and the Reaſons I had given him for it; but yet in the Belief, that I ought not to neglect this Occaſion, becauſe he was reſolved. Mr. *Sydney* was mighty earneſt with me to

reſolve too; and next day Mr. *Mountague* ſpoke to me himſelf; and believing nothing could ſtick with me, unleſs it were taking up the Money, he offered to help me to it; which was more than I had reaſon to expect from him or any man elſe. My Wife is enough inclined I ſhould do it, though ſhe and my Children run moſt Hazzard in it, if I ſhould die, and leave my Eſtate charged with ſuch a Debt, which though ſmall at preſent, yet I thank God, is clear. For my own part, I confeſs I find no Motions about me towards it, and ſhould have thought the *Spaniſh* Embaſſy a much better Employment. I have ever deteſted the Cuſtom grown amongſt us of ſelling Places, and much more thoſe of ſo much Importance to the Crown. I think it no great honour to be preferred before Sir *Joſeph Williamſon*, and yet I would not do him an Injury neither, as this would ſeem to be. I have ſeen ſuch Changes at Court, that I know not yet what to make of this laſt; and ſtill remember poor Monſieur *de Witt*'s Word of, *Fluctuation perpetuelle dans la conduite d' Angleterre*; which of all things in the World I am not made for; and had rather once for all, break my Head with going on, than be wrenching my ſelf continually with ſuddain Turns. I need ſay no more of this Matter;

ter; it lies before you. Pray pleaſe to talk with my Brother about it; 'tis what the Family is concerned in more than I, and therefore pray let me receive your Judgment upon it; which in this, as all things elſe, ſhall ever have the greateſt weight with,

SIR,

Your moſt Obedie

Son, &c.

To Sir *John Temple.*

Sheen, May 16, 167[illegible].

SIR,

I Have wholly followed your Opinion, both in declining the Motion, about the Secretary's Place, and in fixing that of *Holland*; ſince I find That the only preſent Employment you are content with for me, and you are not content with none. My Lord *Arlington* ſeemed to take what I ſaid to him upon both very indifferently; and though at firſt he raiſed a Scruple about my going into *Holland*, in regard of a certain Lord's having been very hot, for ſome time, in the purſuit of it: Yet when I perſiſted in it, upon the King's having in *February* deſigned me for it, of his own Motion: He adviſed me to take my Meaſures, as well as I could, with my Lord Treaſurer, about the main Point, which was, what he related to the Exchequer; and for the King, he knew very well there would be no Difficulty. Both theſe are now ſetled: The King has reſolved to

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ſend me over Ambaſſador Extraordinary to the States: And my Lord Treaſurer, is after ſome Conteſt, fallen into the Terms I inſiſted, which is to equal me with the other Embaſſies of the Crowns; and ſo I engaged, in my Preparations, for this Journey. His Majeſty is reſolved I ſhall offer his Mediation to the States, in their preſent War with *France*. If it be accepted by them and all the Parties, I reckon he will be Maſter of the Peace, and the Parties be hindred from making their ſeparate Treaties, when they are once engaged in a general one. I hope you will like what is done, as much as you ſeemed before to deſire it; which is all I ask, and leave the reſt to God Almighty, for what is to come.

I reſolve to take my whole Family over; but yet that my Wife and Son ſhall firſt make you a Viſit, ſince I ſee you will not think of coming over. 'Tis their turn now, and my Siſter and I will go firſt into *Holland*, though we ſhould both be very glad to wait upon you again, if it could have been allowed us. But my Wife will not conſent to my going without either her or my Siſter; and ſhe has a great mind to carry over her Son to you her ſelf,

after having been ſo long in *France*, and at an Age when commonly the great Changes are made, which you will judge of when you ſee him. I ſhall, at preſent, give you no further trouble than the Profeſſions of my being ever,

SIR,

Your's, &c.

To

To Mr. Secretary *Coventry*.

Hague, July 17. S. N. 1674.

SIR,

I Ordered an Account, of my Arrival here, on *Friday* laſt, to be given Mr. *Cook*, by that Night's Poſt; which being all I had then to ſay, I thought might well ſave you any farther Trouble, at that Time. On *Saturday* morning I ſent to the Penſioner *Fagel*, to deſire an hour of ſeeing him ſome time that Day: He excuſed it, but ſent me Word withal, that he would not fail of coming to me ſome time in the Evening; which he performed, in a Viſit, about two hours long. After the Compliments on both ſides, I fell upon theſe Points with him. The Satisfaction His Majeſty had received, in the late *Peace* with the *States*: His Deſires and Reſolutions to continue and cultivate it: The Reaſon He had to content Himſelf with the Poſture and Advantages in which He ſtood, by a *Peace* with all His Neighbours, while they were all engaged, in a War: That if his Bounty and Piety, did not prevail with Him, farther than

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His Intereſts, He ſhould Sit down with His own Peace, and not trouble Himſelf farther about that of *Chriſtendom*: But theſe Diſpoſitions, and the Deſire of ſo general a Good, had engaged Him, to offer His Mediation in the preſent Quarrels. That it had been accepted by *France*, and promiſed to be conſidered of by the *Emperor*, and *Spain*, in concert with their *Allies*. That the *States* Ambaſſadors in *England*, who underſtood our Conſtitutions, and the Diſpoſitions of the *King* my Maſter better than Strangers could do, had promiſed all their Offices, that His Majeſty's Offer might be accepted here, and that the Parties might conſent to the Choice of *London*, for the Place of Treaty: And thereupon, I had brought over a Letter from His Majeſty, to the *States*, with the Offer of His Mediation: That they ought to believe, that if His Majeſty were partial to any Side, it muſt be to that, wherein his own *Nephew* was ſo nearly concerned; and that they ought to think ſo the rather, ſince his Majeſty made the Offers of Mediation, at a Time when all the Advantage of the War had run ſo high on the *French* ſide, and were in all Appearance, likely to do ſo ſtill. That perhaps, if his Majeſty had ſeen *Flanders* like to be defended, by the Arms of the

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Confederates; he might have ſpared or delayed this Office: That they knew he underſtood his Intereſt too well, to be content, to ſee *Flanders* loſt; and that his Honour would not ſuffer him, no more than the Condition in which the laſt War hath left him, to go about preſerving it any other way, than that of a Peace. That his Majeſty would be very glad ſuch a one might be made, as would leave *Flanders* in a better Poſture of defending it ſelf, than it was before, by laying the *Spaniſh* Territories together more in a Round, than the laſt Peace left them: And, that when this ſhould be concluded, I did not doubt, but they would find his Majeſty ready to enter into the beſt and ſtrongeſt Guaranties of it, they could deſire.

I need not trouble you, to tell you how this Matter paſſed between us; but ſumm up together what, all I drew from him in the whole Conference, amounted to. He firſt gave me Thanks for the Advice I had given their Ambaſſadors there; and ſaid, he ſhould be glad, I would always be their Councellor, how they ought to comport themſelves to his Majeſty upon all Occaſions. He fell into a Relation of the Forces of their preſent League, eſpecially by the Conjunction of the Duke of

Branden-

Brandenburgh, whoſe Treaty with the Emperor and them, he aſſured me, was abſolutely concluded, ſo as to bring him into an Offenſive Part of the War. That though they could not expect another ſo great Conjuncture, and had but too great Teſtimonies of the ill will of *France*, particularly to this State; yet they had no other Thoughts but only of gaining ſuch a Peace, as might leave them and their Allies out of Danger, upon a new Invaſion from *France*: That for their own Parts, they had recovered all they had loſt, except *Grave*, which they hoped ſuddainly for a good Account of, being already inveſted by Monſieur *Ralenhoupt*; for *Maſtricht* they had given up by Agreement to the *Spaniards*. That it was impoſſible for them to leave their Allies, who under God, had ſaved their State from abſolute Ruin; but whatever Terms of Peace they would conſent to, would ſatisfy the States. That they believed *Spain* will be moderate, and though their Treaty with that Crown, obligeth them to the Conditions of the *Pyrenees*, yet there is a Clauſe, which alloweth it to be altered, by Conſent: That they apprehend *Sueden*, as too partial to *France*; but are content to make his Majeſty, Arbiter, in all their Affairs; and to this End, that they were

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reſolved to accept of the Mediation, were willing that *London* ſhould be the Place of *Congreſs*, and that they would leave it to his Majeſty there, either to propoſe the Scheme of a Peace himſelf, or to retrench and adjuſt, according to his Prudence and Equity, what Propoſitions ſhould be made, on each Side, by the Parties themſelves: That they would perform all the Offices they could, to induce the *Emperor* and *Spain* to agree with them in theſe Points, both by the States writing effectually to their Miniſters in thoſe two Courts, and by his Speaking earneſtly; both with the *Imperial* and *Spaniſh* Miniſters here. That he was ſatisfied, how ſafe their Intereſt would lye in his Majeſty's Hands; and that this State would ever make it their Endeavour, to deſerve the Friendſhip and Protection of the Crown of *England*; by which they knew it could beſt be preſerved, as well as it had at firſt been raiſed.

After this Conference with the Penſioner, I thought it beſt to neglect no time in the Delivery of my Letters; and ſo went that Evening to the Preſident of the *Week*, and put into his hands, both that of Credence and the other of Mediation; which were both received by him, with great Applauſes, upon the Subject of the Peace, and

the Recovery of his Majeſty's Favour, and Friendſhip to this State.

Upon *Sunday* after noon, the Preſident to whom I had delivered my Letters, came to me, and told me; he was ordered by the States General, to attend me with the Account of their having peruſed his Majeſty's Letters: Upon the firſt, he made me their Compliments, which being chiefly Perſonal, need no Relation. Upon the Letter which carryed his Majeſty's Offer of Mediation, he ſaid, without doubt, the States would receive it with Joy and with Thanks; but being engaged to ſeveral Allies, they could not do it, without firſt communicating it to them; which they would do immediately, and in ſuch manner, as they queſtioned not to induce them, to accept it too. I told him, that the *Emperor* and *Spain*, having put their Delay in accepting of it upon their Allies, by whom I underſtood the States to be meant; I expected at leaſt, that the States would have accepted it, as to themſelves, or their Part in the Quarrel: But he ſaid, that it ſelf could not be done by their Agreement, without a Communication, which they hoped his Majeſty would not interpret ill, ſince it could produce, but the Delay of ſome few days, and was meant, to extend the Acceptance

to their Allies: I desired him, to let the States know, however, what I had expected in this Point; and asked him, whether they would not have been glad, that upon his Majesty's Offer of Mediation to all the Parties, *France* had refused it, or made Difficulties upon it, and the Confederates had accepted it, with the best Grace that could be; he confess'd, he would: Upon which, I told him, then they had Reason to be Sorry, that just the contrary had hapned; he seemed to be touch'd, and said he would likewise, report this to the States.

I have not since, been able to see the Pensioner, nor the President of the *Week*; and therefore shall only say in general, that though the Assurances I received from the first, and the Account I had from the last, seem a little different; yet I am confident, his Majesty may reckon, that an Obstruction of the Peace, will not arise from hence. For besides the general Dispositions and Interests of Traders, and the Jealousies, natural between the Civil and Military Power; I find their Payments are on all Hands too great, to be long continued; their Hopes are very moderate from the Successes of their Armies or Fleets; and I see no Advantages, that they propose to themselves, though both should

prosper,

proſper, beſides the running *France* a little more out of Breath; ſo that the Peace may be probable to laſt the longer.

I find the Penſioner is the great Man here; and acts all under the Prince's Influence, though not without ſome Diſtaſt among the Richer ſort of People in the *Towns*. He is a Perſon whoſe Diſpoſitions may, I am confident, be improved, to make him as partial to *England*, as thoſe of his Predeceſſor were eſteemed to *France*; in caſe there were any Competition of thoſe two Intereſts here. The Point upon which, I judge this to turn chiefly, is that of Religion in which I find him, by his Diſcourſes, very warm; and hear by others, that he hath it very much at Heart.

I am ever

SIR, *Your moſt* &c.

To

To the Prince of *Orange*.

Hague, Aug. 1. 1674.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs,

THough I could not kiſs Your Highneſs's Hands, in the way I deſired, immediately upon my Arrival here; yet I could not forbear the doing of it this way, upon the very firſt Occaſion; and aſſuring your Highneſs, with how much Ambition, both of attending and ſerving you, I enter upon this Employment; which without thoſe Motives, would be but a Point of meer Obedience, and not at all of Inclination. This, I am ſure, your Highneſs will believe, when I have the Honour of entertaining you upon thoſe Points; wherein his Majeſty has pleaſed to inſtruct me, and which makes me ſo impatient to attend you, that I ſhall not ſtay, to ſatisfy the Forms here, but only to recover Health enough for another Journy and Paſſage of *Sea*, that uſed me very ill. I hope this will happen within a Day or two, and give

me the Occaſion both of acquitting my ſelf of his Majeſty's Commands, and of expreſſing ſome Part of that Devotion, wherewith I have been ſo long and, ſhall be ever

SIR,

Your Highneſs's &c.

To the Prince of *Orange*.

Hague, Aug. 18. 1674.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs,

WHatever the Succeſſes of the late Battel have been, or the Conſequences ſhall prove: Your Highneſs may be content to hear from a plain Man, and who hath no Vein of Flattery about him; that the Accounts of your Friends, your Allies, and your Enemies; how much ſoever they differ on other Points, yet agree perfectly, in giving your Highneſs all the Applauſes and Renown upon this

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Occaſion; that are due to the greateſt Captain, and boldeſt Soldier. I cannot but give your Highneſs the Joy of it, and put you in mind at the ſame time, how reaſonable it is; that in ſuch Adventures hereafter, you ſhould manage your Life ſomething the better, for having managed your Glory ſo well in * this. 'Tis not fit to give your Highneſs longer Interruptions, and therefore I ſhall end this, with my Wiſhes for your Safety; ſince thoſe for your Fortunes and Honour, have ſucceeded ſo well. I am ever with that Devotion and Truth, which become me

* The Battle of *Seneffe.*

SIR,

Your Highneſs's moſt humble,

and moſt obedient Servant.

To My Lord *Arlington.*

Hague, Sept. 4. S. N. 1674.

My LORD,

I was very glad to find, by yours of the 11*th* paſt, the good Intentions, with which the Marquis *de Freſno* parted from you. If he can infuſe them into the Miniſters at *Madrid*, it will be a great Point gained, toward the Peace, and ſuch as joined to the Diſpoſitions we ſhall meet here, will not leave room, for the *Imperial* Councils to avoid the Progreſs of it. In the Diſcourſes I hold here upon this Subject, with the chief Perſons of the States; when I tell them, how the Peace is like to be hindred, by Intereſts wholly Foreign to theirs; it is grown a common Word among them; *je ne dis mot, mais je voudrois fort la paix:* And you may certainly reckon, upon all that can be done towards it from hence, when this Campaign ends; and before that, I am apt to think ſo much, that nothing will be done, as to believe; the leſs 'tis offered at, the better. Sir *Gabriel Sylvius* left the Prince in the Belief, that there would be another Battle;

and

and they tell me here, there is ſome great Deſign reſolved of, by the Confederates, which muſt be ſuddainly executed; becauſe all agree, that the *Imperial* Troops have Orders to March towards the *Rhine*, by the middle of next Month. Sir *Gabriel* tells me likewiſe; that at his coming away he ask'd the Prince, whether he would be willing I ſhould come to him any where, while he continued in the Field; but that his Highneſs anſwered; *Qùil ſeroit fort eloignè, et ſes marches incertaines, que la campagne ſ' achevroit bientôt, et qu' alors Il me verroit à la Haye.* Notwithſtanding all this, which is no more than I have known long enough; yet I have ſo well followed your Lordſhip's Advice in underſtanding what had paſs'd, juſt as the Prince was willing I ſhould, that I am pretty confident I ſhall be as well with him at his Return, as the King can wiſh, for the Advance of the Service I have in charge. I am aſſured by one, to whom Monſieur *de Mareſtes* (the *French* Miniſter here, who has great Credit with the Prince) told it a little before his Highneſs left the *Hague*; that upon Diſcourſe in private, concerning the Affairs of *England*, and my coming over, the Prince ſaid; *Qùil avoit telle opinion de ma probitè qùil croyoit tout ce que je luy dirois là deſſus*: What the

late Accident between us, may have produced, I know not; but by a Letter I received this Morning, in anſwer to one I wrote upon the late Fight; I could not believe any thing amiſs there: I ſend your Lordſhip a Copy of it becauſe this is his own, though the laſt might very well be another Style, as you gueſſed.

I likewiſe incloſe, what I ſaid to the States at my Audience, which I hope, his Majeſty will find comfortable, to what he intended; which I ſhould be glad to know: And for the reſt of that troubleſome Ceremony, I will only tell you, that it paſs'd very well on all Sides; and I am ſure on mine, with a great deal more Expence, than any Embaſſy I have ever ſeen here; which (conſidering the Courſe of my natural Humour, when I am private) his Majeſty may very well attribute to the Regard of his Honour; that ought to be the greater, the worſe I found the Repreſentations made from *England* hither, of the Poſture of our Affairs, and eſpecially of the Revenue. After this, I am like to be idle for a Month or ſix Weeks, that is, till the Return of the Prince; and if I am left to my ſelf, I will not be too buſy, which is a Part rather over-acted by my Brother Ambaſſador here, upon the Point of Mediation, and is grown to be taken for

o much, of little to the Purpoſe. But when the Prince comes; if his Majeſty gives me leave to take my Times and Ways, and continues in the Mind I left him, of deſiring ſuch a Peace as might leave *Flanders* defenſible, and can but procure Powers from *Spain* to any Perſon within my Reach here; I am pretty confident, by all the Proſpects I have on every Side, that it will be a Buſineſs, within compaſs. I am not leſs confident, of ſetting all Things right between his Majeſty and the Prince, and thereby preventing the Seeds of any future Miſchiefs, in the Royal Family; both which Works, I deſire you will aſſure his Majeſty, ſhall be purſued with all my Skill and Induſtry, and in the Ways I conceive moſt conducing to their Succeſs; and if I have the Honour of atchieving them, it will be enough for ſuch a Life as mine. And the King will then give me leave, I hope, to go and Sleep at home, and leave my Son in the buſy World, which requires Men Spirited with ſome other Heats, than I have about me. If upon his coming over you can find any Thing you would have ſaid to me, though he be Young, yet I am pretty confident he may be truſted with it; for he has a good plain Steddy Head, and is deſirous to do well.

I do not trouble you with any current News, having caſt a Digeſtion of all that occurs here of that Kind upon my Secretary; as being unwilling to anſwer for what one hears, though perhaps it may be fit to tell, with the very Uncertainties that attend it. However I take care he ſhall be as well informed as can be compaſſed in this Place.

I am ever moſt affectionately,

Your &c.

To

To My Lord Keeper.

Hague, Sept. 4. S. N. 1674.

My LORD,

I Know ſo well how many neceſſary Troubles attend ſo great Perſons as Your Lordſhip, that I have been very unwilling at all to encreaſe them, by any, that are unneceſſary from hence; and ſuch I was ſure all muſt be, that come this way; ſince your Lordſhip has, whatever you are content to be troubled with of my conſtant Diſpatches to Mr. Secretary. However, I could not ſatisfie my ſelf to be wholly out of your Memory, and therefore reſolved to make an ill way to it, rather than none; though I had much rather put in my Claim to it, by ſerving your Lordſhip, than by troubling you. The Diſpoſitions here are ſtrong towards a Peace, and I hear they are not weak in *France*. *Spain* would be glad to make a good War, but fears an ill one; which by the Diviſion of their Councils and Miniſters may well fall to their Share. The Emperor is moſt eager of the Four, to keep up the Ball, being armed at others Coſt, and growing into greater Conſide-

ration

ration by it at home, whatſoever he does abroad. *Sweden* would, I believe, be glad to draw the Stakes they have in their keeping, without entring into the Game; and though they have Treaties concluded with *France*, and begin to Arm with their Money, yet they preſs on the Mediation, with all the Inſtances they can, in hope that way to excuſe themſelves from any ſhare in this Years Action. *Denmark* only obſerves the Motion of that Crown, and will be ever in the other Scale.

The Prince of *Orange* is, I doubt, reſolved to have more Honour yet, before this Campaign ends, though he had his full ſhare of it in the laſt Action of *Seneffe*, and more than his Share of the Danger. This makes us here expect another Battel or Siege very ſuddainly, and while ſo great Adventures are ſtiring, no Man can judge of the Events of the Year. I incloſe a Copy of what I ſaid to the States laſt Week at my Publick Audience, that Your Lordſhip may judge whether it be conformable to His Majeſty's Intentions, which you are better acquainted with.

Among

Among the many Pieces of Juſtice Your Lordſhip does every Day to indifferent Men, I hope you will not refuſe me that, of believing me always what I am with Paſſion and Truth,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's Moſt

Faithful and Moſt

Humble Servant.

To

To Mr. Secretary *Coventry*.

Hague, *Sept.* 17. S. N. 1674.

SIR,

THIS Day I received a Viſit from the Penſioner; wherein he told me, Firſt, That by Letters from *Vienna*, he had great hopes given him, that his Majeſty's Mediation would be accepted by that Court, and that this Advice was ſeconded by the Emperor's Miniſters here; though he ſaid, he found by both, that His Majeſty's Subjects having had ſo great a ſhare in the laſt Action between Monſieur *Turenne*, and the Imperial Forces, was taken very unkindly by that Court, and other Princes of the Empire. He told me beſides, that he had a particular Advice from the States Miniſters at *Vienna*, that *Monſieur Puffendorf* the *Swediſh* Envoy there, endeavoured under hand, all he could, to hinder the accepting His Majeſty's Mediation by that Court, which he (the Penſioner) could not apprehend the Reaſon of; unleſs it were, that the *Swedes* had no mind to ſee the preſent Game end, without making yet ſome more Advantages of it; or that they had a deſire to remain the Sole Arbiter

Arbiter of the *Munſter* Peace; whereas the Interpretation of ſome Articles of it might be referred to his Majeſty, in caſe his Mediation ſhould now be accepted by the Empire. But upon this Point the Penſioner concluded, that if this Matter ſhould be much longer delay'd, by either the Court at *Vienna*, or *Madrid*, this State would let them know, that they abſolutely accepted His Majeſty's Mediation, which he did not doubt would be followed by a Concurrence from them both.

After this, he told me, that upon the Repreſentations he had made to the Prince of what had paſs'd between us here upon the Subject of the Peace, he had received Orders from His Highneſs to come to me, and deſire to know more particularly what His Majeſty's Intentions were in this Matter; and upon what Terms His Majeſty deſired the Peace ſhould be made; and to aſſure me, that when he knew them, His Highneſs would endeavour that this State ſhould comply all that could be with them; and that as to what concerned themſelves, he knew they would be content to leave all to His Majeſty's own Arbitrage; and he did not doubt, though they could not treat apart from their Allies, yet they might go a great way in diſpoſing them to receive any Overture that ſhould be made

of

of a ſafe and laſting Peace. He told me farther, that his Orders from the Prince were to enter into this Matter only with me, and without the Communication of their Ambaſſadors in *England*, becauſe he thought it was the better, the fewer hands it paſs'd.

I told the Penſioner I would not fail letting his Majeſty know all that he had ſaid to me from the Prince, and returning him an Anſwer, more particularly ſo ſoon as I received it: In the mean time I was ſure that it would be taken kindly by his Majeſty; and that the more Confidence he expreſs'd of the King's Kindneſs to him, as well as of his Juſtice in the Buſineſs of the Mediation, the more Reaſon he would have to rely upon both. That for the Terms of the Peace, I could only ſay in general, that his Majeſty deſired, as well as they, that it might be laſting and ſafe, being equally concerned in preſerving *Flanders*, which was only in danger: But for Particulars, I thought it was not the part of a Mediator, to propoſe the Terms, but rather receive ſuch as ſhould be propoſed by both Parties, and endeavour to agree them by moderating what ſhould ſeem exceſſive, and finding Expedients for what was difficult, in either of theſe Demands. That

on

on the *French* ſide, all being in the Hands of once Prince, it might be reſolved in a Day; but the Intereſts and Intentions of ſeveral Confederates, were harder to agree upon; and therefore I thought the Propoſitions towards a Peace ought to begin from thence; which if his Majeſty were once poſſeſs'd of, he would endeavour to make them go, as far as they could with *France:* Therefore I told him, that as I would tranſmit to his Majeſty the Prince's Deſire of knowing the King's Intentions in this Matter; ſo they ought to know what Terms *Spain* propoſed to themſelves, after a Campaign paſt, with ſo great Expectation, and ſo little Advantage on the Confederate ſide.

The Penſioner told me, I had Reaſon in all I ſaid, and that he would ſpeak with *Don Emanuel de Lyra*, who he found had ſo much Credit in his Court, that he had never yet been diſavowed in any thing he had undertaken for. He ſaid, He knew it was a diſadvantageous time for them to talk of a Peace now, but that he hoped, they might yet have ſome Succeſs before the Campaign ended; which he deſired for nothing ſo much, as for the ſooner obtaining the Peace; ſince it might look unreaſonable for them to demand the Reſtitution of Places conquered in *Flanders* laſt War;

and

and yet it was abſolutely unſafe for them to have that Country in the Poſture it was upon the Treaty of *Aix*: That if this could be admitted, they were ſure of the Peace; for he had received new Inſtances from the *Count de Eſtrades*, by the Penſioner of *Maſtricht*, who had been with him again that very Morning, and aſſur'd him, that what the *Count* propoſed, was not only from himſelf, but by Orders from his Maſter; and hereupon he repeated to me what I wrote to you before of that Propoſition, which was grounded upon the Treaty of *Aix*, the reſtoring Commerce to the State as it was in 1662; and *Maſtricht* to the Prince of *Orange*, but not to the *Spaniard*. From this he fell into the Scheme of their preſent Affairs, aſſuring himſelf of *Grave* in a Fortnights time, of the Imperial Army on the *Rhine* growing very ſtrong, and *Monſieur Turenne*'s very weak; as likewiſe *Monſieur Schomberg*'s in *Rouſillon*, where the Campaign was but now beginning; and for the reſt, excuſing as well as he could, the ill Succeſs of their Fleet under *Monſieur de Ruyter*, and ſaying, they ſhould draw four thouſand men out of it, upon their coming home, for reinforcing their Armies: And a great deal of this kind, which ſignified no more than the Reſolution, of making the reſt of this Campaign.

In

In the mean time his Majeſty has it in his Choice, to open a Negotiation of the Peace, either by telling them here his own Thoughts or Intentions, as to the Terms of it; or elſe by receiving from them ſuch Propoſitions upon it, as may be firſt digeſted here, between *Don Emanuel de Lyra* and the Penſioner; and this I ſhall endeavour all I can to bring to ſome Head; and let it be as rough as it will at firſt, it will be the proper Part of a Mediator afterwards to work it into the beſt Form, that it is capable of receiving. For this End I am reſolved to find out ſome Expedient or other to meet with *Don Emanuel de Lyra*, who hath not yet ſeen me, upon the Points of Ceremony that lie between our Characters. For the preſent, I ſhall only ſay upon the whole Matter, that I believe, in caſe *France* can be induced to leave ſuch a Frontier in *Flanders*, as may be thought defenſible, and ſo leave no Suſpicions of their Deſign to begin a new War when they are in a better Poſture, and theſe Countries in a Worſe to purſue it; the Buſineſs of the Peace will hardly fail; nor any Intereſt, either Private or Foreign, prevail with this State to go on with the War. But on the other ſide, if this Point cannot be gained, I believe the Diſpoſitions here, how paſſionate ſoever towards a Peace, will not have

the Force to bring it about; but that they will rather content themſelves to leſſen their own Charge, by ſetting out no more Fleets, and only maintaining a Body of five and twenty, or thirty thouſand Men at Land, which, as Auxiliary Forces, may, upon occaſion, join with the Imperial or *Spaniſh* Troops, who ſhall be left as Principal in the War. I am ever,

SIR,

Your, &c.

To

To Mr. Secretary *Coventry*.

Hague, Octob. 5. S. N. 1674.

SIR,

I Have none from you of late to acknowledge, and doubt I lie too much out of your Way, to expect any longer the honour of that Correſpondence, with which my Employment here began, and which I eſteemed one of the beſt Circumſtances that attended it. Sir *Joſeph Williamſon* gave me notice laſt Poſt, both of his Promotion, and of the Affairs of this Province being fallen under his Care; as likewiſe of what Commands his Majeſty had that Day ordered to be tranſmitted to me; whereupon I make him this Day the uſual Diſpatch in return. I know not whether by this Change You will be able to get wholly out of my Reach, becauſe, you know, 'tis hard for a Man to loſe a Good Haunt, or an Ill Cuſtom: And I ſhall not be content to forfeit the Poſſeſſion of your Favour or Memory, for want of ſometimes laying claim to it: I muſt however rejoice with you upon your Removal to better Climates, and more proſperous Scenes; eſpecially at a Time when the Affairs of this have ſo very ill an Aſpect, by

the Diſſentions and Diſtruſts among the Generals of the Confederates, which I may tell you are to the laſt Degree, and the moſt Criminal; and ſuch as have not only ruined their Affairs this Campaign, but muſt do ſo, while theſe Men are in Play. I will not give you both a long and an unneceſſary Trouble; what Uſe you will make of me here, and in what Degree, ſhall be in your own Diſpoſal; for no man is with more Truth nor Eſteem than I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

To

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague, Octob. 5. S. N. 1674.

SIR,

THough I gave you Joy of the Secretary's Place before I came away, and deſired your Protection, as looking then upon it as a Thing done; yet finding by the laſt Ordinary, that you were but now newly enter'd upon the Actual Poſſeſſion of it; I could not forbear renewing the Expreſſions that become me upon both thoſe Subjects; and wiſhing you the Honour, and his Majeſty the Service that you both propoſe to your ſelves by this Promotion. I know very well, the Compliments I can make you, will be loſt, as they deſerve, among many others you will receive upon this Occaſion; and therefore I ſhall not increaſe them, or give a long and unneceſſary Interruption in the midſt of ſo much and ſo various Buſineſs, as muſt have fallen upon you with this Advancement; but ſhall end this Trouble with the Profeſſions of my being,

SIR,

Your, &c.

To the PRINCE.

Hague, Octob. 15. S. N. 1674.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs,

I Cannot forbear rejoycing with Your Highneſs upon your nearer Approach to theſe Countries, and wiſhing you all ſucceſs in the Deſigns that have brought you where you are, and hinder'd your coming farther at preſent, tho' your Highneſs's Perſon may be neceſſary here, as well as in other Places. In my laſt I gave Your Highneſs an Account of what I ſaid to the States at my Audience, and therein the general Scope of my preſent Ambaſſy, as to what concerns his Majeſty's Diſpoſitions, both in relation to His Own Peace with theſe Countries, and to the General Peace of *Chriſtendom*. Your Highneſs will have received before this comes to you, from his Majeſty's own Hands, and at length, what you could deſire more of his Particular Kindneſs to your Highneſs's Perſon and Intereſts, and of his Intentions upon the Subject of the Peace, both as to the Preſervation of *Flanders* and *Guaranty* of the Peace, if it were once concluded, towards which your Highneſs muſt furniſh the firſt Materials

If

If upon this Occaſion Your Highneſs has any Commands to lay upon me, I ſhould be very glad to know whether you pleaſe to have me attend them here till your Return to this Place, or think fit to convey them to me by *Monſieur Fagel*, or any other Perſon; or whether you will command me to wait upon you at any Place or Time you ſhall pleaſe to appoint: In the mean time, I pray God continue Your Highneſs's Health and Safety, according to the conſtant Wiſhes of,

SIR,

Your Highneſs's, &c.

To My Lord Chamberlain.

Hague, Octob. 16. S.N. 1674.

My LORD,

THE laſt Packets brought me Yours of the 29*th* paſt, which was in all Parts of it both uſeful and welcome to me, excepting only the Excuſes it began with, upon the Arrear you mention, of ſo many Letters during your Illneſs and Abſence from Town. How unneceſſary any ſuch Expreſſions were to me, you will eaſily judge, by my having continued conſtantly the Courſe of writing, whenever I had any Occaſion; which I did, and ſhall do, upon the belief, you are content it ſhould be ſo, whether you write or no, till you diſcourage me in it. I was very glad to find by the Style of your Letter, that your Health was grown better, and your Temper not at all worſe, ſince the Ill Accidents that have lately fallen out, enough indeed to ſhake them both if they had not been firm at bottom. The beſt Wiſh I can make you, is, that you may long enjoy and continue them both; eſpecially that *æquam rebus in arduis ſervare mentem*; which I take to be either the beſt Profeſſion we bring with us into the World, or the beſt Acquiſition we can make while we are in it. I muſt

I muſt acknowledge the Honour his Majeſty does me, and indeed the Credit he thereby gives me with the Prince, by the Communication of what was the Subſtance of his laſt Letter; which I think was the righteſt underſtood that could be, and cannot but produce ſome good Effect; either by procuring a direct Anſwer from the Prince upon the main Point, or at leaſt by introducing me, in the very beſt Manner; into the Overtures and Negotiation of it when I ſee the Prince, which cannot be far off. In the mean time, I have immediately upon the Receipt of yours, written to his Highneſs juſt the Points you directed me in; and in a manner, the very Terms you give me, deſiring to know, whether he will have me attend his Return hither; or ſend me his Commands by Monſieur *Fagel*, or any other Perſon; or have me wait upon him in any Place or Time, he ſhall pleaſe to command.

I have never heard from him, ſince I gave his Highneſs an Account, of what I ſaid to the States at my Audience, and therein the Scope of his Majeſty's Diſpoſitions concerning the Peace, with the Offers of his Mediation; which made me think he would be ſtanch in all that Matter, till the Campaign ended; and perhaps

haps the colder he is, the leſs he ſhould be preſs'd, till the Courſe of Things and Occaſions, bring him about, and diſpoſe him, rather to ſollicite his Majeſty's Offices, than decline them. This, I believe may happen, at his Return hither; eſpecially if *Grave* ſhould be taken; which would ſtill increaſe the violent Inclinations to the Peace, which grow every day in theſe Provinces; eſpecially that of *Holland*, and moſt of all, in the Town of *Amſterdam*, which begins to apprehend a Loſs of Trade, that will be hardly recovered, after any long courſe into another Channel.

By what I can find, from *Don Emanuel de Lyra*, the Diſpoſitions at *Madrid*, are ſtrong towards a Peace too, ſo it might leave no Proſpect of a new War; and though I ſuſpect the Intentions at *Vienna*, upon the *Emperor*'s Power at home, as well as his Conſideration abroad, encreaſing ſo much and ſo evidently by the War; yet knowing how abſolutely that Court muſt depend upon *Spain* and *Holland*, from whom they draw the Subſidies that maintain their Armies: I am of opinion, that not only his Majeſty's Mediation, would be eaſily accepted by all Parties, but the abſolute Arbitrage of all Matters in difference, would be left in his Hands; in caſe

the

the Confederates were but poſſeſs'd, with an Opinion of his Majeſty's being impartial in the Matter; to which I hope, his laſt Diſcourſe with the Marquis *de Freſno*, and Letter to the Prince; may have a great deal contributed.

The Emperor's Reſident here, told me two Days ſince, that Court was reſolved to accept his Majeſty's Mediation; *Mais toujours ſous l'aveu de l' Eſpagne:* And that they were upon Choice of a Perſon, to be ſent over ſuddainly, with publick Character into *England.* The *Dutch* Miniſter writes to the States, that the Emperor will not accept the Mediation, till his Majeſty's Forces are recalled out of *France*: But the Reſident here, ſays, there is no ſuch Condition mentioned; though he adds modeſtly, it would be a great Inducement to the Emperor, and help to ſatisfy the Princes of *Germany*; with the Emperor's coming to that Reſolution, who took it to heart to ſee ſuch a Body of *Engliſh, en tous les demelès durant toute cette Campagne.* Beſides I muſt needs tell you, that the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors, have made ſuch Repreſentations, of the Diſpoſitions and Intentions of our Court, being ſo abſolutely in favour of *France*, that they are very apt here to interpret the Inſtances we make towards a Peace, to be concerted with

with *France*; and ſome of them tell me plainly and frankly, they knew the King would not make them, if *France* did not deſire the Peace, and find it neceſſary for their Affairs. When I ſay, their Ambaſſadors, I do not mean Monſieur *Odyke*, nor what they have written, ſince his being there: But I reflected upon a Paſſage, which one of the States told me, was in a late Letter from the other Ambaſſadors; which was: *Monſieur Odyke nous aſſeure que le Roy a des fort bonnes diſpoſitions pour nôtre Etat.*

The late Action near *Strasburgh*, will prove, I believe at laſt, to have been a drawn Buſineſs, and leave each Party the Pretence of a Victory; as I ſee it has done, of the Field: I am ſorry to hear his Majeſty's Subjects have ſuffered ſo much in it, and doubt it will make way, for a greater Battle ſhortly, in caſe the *Brandenburgh* Forces came up on the *Imperial* Side; and both the Troops of the *Ban*, and Detachment from the Prince of *Condé*, on the *French*; both which I find, are ſuddainly expected: They begin now to apprehend *Suedens* entring into the War; which muſt engage *Denmark*, and open a greater and longer Scene in all Appearance, and leave his Majeſty the only Mediator in ſo general a Quarrel.

This is too long a Letter to one, that is but newly recovered, and engaged in ſo many other Thoughts; and yet it muſt not end without my being ever

Your moſt Faithful,

and Humble Servant.

To

To My Lord *Treaſurer.*

Hague October 26. S. N. 1674.

My LORD,

MY Letters could never pretend more than your Lordſhip's Pardon; and have had too great a Return, in the Honour I received of one from your Lordſhip, intended me by my *Son*, who I doubt will be grown too proud, by your Lordſhip's owning him: But he is young, and may live to deſerve ſome Place in your Service; which when you pleaſe to allow him, I ſhall own him no longer than while he acquitts himſelf well. I ſhould be extreamly glad to receive the ſmalleſt Command from your Lordſhip in that Particular you pleaſe to mention, or any other; that ſo by my Diligence in ſmall ones, I may deſerve greater; and thereby find ſome better Ways of acknowledging the Favours I have received; and the Troubles I have given your Lordſhip, than by increaſing them.

The Notices you pleaſe to command from Time to Time, of any thing that happens extraordinary, ſhall not fail you.

As

As to the Enquiries in your laſt, concerning the Diſpoſitions to a Peace, and their tampering with *France*; I may aſſure your Lordſhip, that the firſt grow very violent, and will I believe, appear ſo more, if they come to be Maſters of *Grave*, where they are engaged, both upon Honour and Revenge of ſo many Men as it has coſt them; and being the only Place of theirs, remaining among the *French* Conqueſts (ſince they have by Treaty quitted *Maſtricht* to the *Spaniards*) whenever they recover it, they will I believe, begin to play the Mediators in the reſt of the Quarrel. But that which makes the Bent of the People in general, ſo paſſionate for a Peace, is the unmeaſurable Burthen of their Taxes; and the Intereſt of the Trading Towns, that ſay upon all Occaſions; there is none gets by this War but *England*; and that if it ſhould continue a Year or two longer, the general Courſe of Trade would run ſo far into our Channel, that they ſhould be in Danger never to recover it. Beſides, the rich men here are generally of the *Arminian* Party, and jealous of the Prince's Greatneſs, which muſt encreaſe by a War. So as all theſe Humours flowing together, make a Current, that nothing can ſtem, but the Force of their Engagements to their Confederates;

and

and of their Intereſt in preſerving of *Flanders* to ſuch a Degree, and in ſuch a Poſture as may leave *France*, without the Deſign of another War that Way; or in caſe they attempt it, may prove a ſtrong Bullwark to theſe Countries, and eaſily defenſible by their Aſſiſtances, without entring as Principals into the War.

By this your Lordſhip will eaſily conclude, that no Obſtruction to the Peace is like to come from hence, but from *Spain* or the *Emperor*. For *Spain*, their Government is ſo broken, by the Faction of the Miniſters, and Minority of their King, that they find themſelves very unfit for any great Action in the World; and ſo would, I am confident, be very glad of a Peace, provided it might leave them, out of fear of another Invaſion from *France*; and ſo they may neither be compelled to ſo vaſt an Expence as the maintaining of great Armies in Time of Peace, nor deſpair of defending their Counrry, whenever a War ſhould begin: And they think neither of theſe can be brought about by a Peace, upon the Terms of *Aix la Chapelle*; which left *Flanders* neither of a Size to keep great Armies, nor of a Figure, to be defended by ſmall.

For theſe Reaſons, though the want of Succeſs this Campaigne has made them, I be-

believe, willing to come to a Peace, much under the Terms of the *Pyrenees*; which were fix'd by the Confederates, upon the laſt Treaty between the Houſe of *Auſtria* and this State; yet I doubt they will rather try another Campaigne, upon the Hopes of what their preſent Conjunction may yet produce, than end the War juſt where it begun.

For the Emperor, I doubt more the Diſpoſitions to a Peace on his Side, than any of the reſt; finding himſelf powerfully armed, and at others Coſt; and thereby his Conſideration growing greater every day in the Empire, whatever it does abroad. Beſides, whatever Battels may coſt, the Reſources of Men are ſo great in *Germany*, that they can never fail whilſt *Spain* and *Holland* can furniſh the Money; or the ſeveral Circles of the Empire, continue animated in the Quarrel. Beſides, the Emperor foreſees himſelf engaged in a War with *France*, upon the Succeſſion of *Flanders*, if the King of *Spain* ſhould fail without Iſſue; and therefore had rather drive on the War, till he can ſee *Flanders* ſecured, and *Lorrain* in ſafe Hands; than leave thoſe Points to be diſputed by a new War, at a Time perhaps when he may not find Himſelf ſo ſtrong; either in Confederates abroad, or

the Concurrence at home of the ſeveral Princes and Circles, nor ſo diſengaged from the *Turk* or the Troubles of *Hungary* at his Back.

For the Princes of the Empire, though they ſeem a good deal Spirited in the preſent Quarrel, by the late Invaſions of *France*, and the Exchange of many Cruelties between the two Nations in the *Palatinate*; and by the Poſſeſſions given them of the Safety, as well as Honour of *Germany*, being engaged in this War; yet I believe, after the firſt Heat is over; the Diſſentions natural to Bodies, that have ſo many Heads; the Jealouſy of too great a Growth of the Emperor's Power, and the Fear of drawing the *Suedes* again into the War, or Spoils of *Germany*; will incline them generally enough to a Peace, and without ſtraining further than the Treaty of *Munſter*; beyond which *France* has not yet pretended any Deſign, that I remember in the Courſe of the War.

For *Sueden*; I look upon them as engag'd with *France* by Treaty and Money, both already received; and more lying ready at *Hamburgh*, upon their entring into Action; which I believe they will be glad to avoid, at leaſt for this Year, if they can any way excuſe it to *France*: And this makes them ſo earneſt upon the Mediation, and

and uſe ſo great Inſtances towards agreeing a Place of *Congreſs*; which might look like the beginning of Treaty, and make their Offices in it, paſs for ſome Satisfaction of what they owe to *France*. If they engage in the War, they will, I believe, try to ſet the Biſhop of *Munſter* again upon his Legs: And on the other Side, the King of *Denmark* will joyn with the Elector of *Brandenburgh* and Dukes of *Luneburgh*, to make Head againſt *Sueden*, in theſe Weſtern Parts of the Empire.

For theſe States tampering with *France*; all I have found of it with Certainty, I gave Notice to the *Secretaries*, about ſix Weeks ſince; which was a Negotiation begun by the Count *d' Eſtrades*, Governour of *Maſtricht*, and formerly in the Service and Embaſſage of this Country. He aſſured the Penſioner here, of his Maſters reſtoring, not only the *Grave*, but *Maſtricht* too, provided it might not be given to the *Spaniards*: Of returning all Points of Commerce to the State they were in, by the Treaty of 1662. Of advancing all that could be any Intereſts and Advantages of the Prince, upon a Treaty; and of making the Peace with *Spain* upon the Terms of *Aix la Chapelle*. Though I ſaw a very earneſt Letter upon this Occaſion, in general from the Count

d' Eſtrades himſelf; yet no Particulars have paſſed further than between the Penſioner here, and the Perſon to whom it was Writ, and who was ſent to him from *Maſtricht:* And the laſt Anſwer I could hear of, was; that when they ſaw any thing in Writing, they would give an Anſwer to it. Upon the whole; I do not doubt of this State's having very advantageous Terms from *France*, if they would make a Peace ſeperate from their Allies; but I ſee not how that can be done, either with Honour or Safety, conſidering the Opinion they have of our new Intelligence with *France*, even in all our Offers of mediating the Peace, and which their Ambaſſadors in *England* have long infuſed into them. On the other Side, the Diſpoſitions on all Hands conſidered; I am confident, if the Confederates were poſſeſs'd with any Belief of His Majeſty's being Impartial in the Buſineſs; they would not only accept his Mediation, but wholly remit their Differences to his Arbitrage.

I beg your Lordſhip to believe, I do not intend you many ſuch Troubles, or would have given you this, without your encouraging me: And that by opening the Scene for once, your Lordſhip

ſhip might the better judge, as any Actors come in, what Paces they are like to make.

I beg your Lordſhip's Pardon, and the Belief of my being with great Paſſion and Truth,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's &c.

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague November 6. S. N. 1674.

SIR,

I was extreamly glad to find by Yours of the 20th and 30th paſt, that His Majeſty reſolved to ſupport me in the Claim I had made here of a free Trade for all our Ships, and the Merchandize they carry (if not counterband) without any Exception of their Trading from one Enemy's Port to another; which cannot, I am ſure, be drawn from the Words of the Articles. This made me confident even before the Arrival of your Letters, by a ſecond Memorial to the States General, to demand the Reſtitution of the *Rebecca*; and to tell them very plainly, that if any Doubt might ariſe upon the Senſe of any Article in Treaties, ſubſiſting between His Majeſty and them, it could not be reſolved without his Majeſty's Conſent; and till that was obtained, they could not make themſelves the Sole Judges or Interpreters againſt the plain common Senſe of any Words, and to the Prejudice of his Majeſty's Subjects. This was

was the Point I put all the Weight upon in my Memorial; but having the Day after received his Majeſty's Pleaſure, with your Account of what had paſſed here in your Return this Way, and your Arguments upon this Subject; I demanded an Hour of the Penſioner, and run through a very long Debate with him upon this Matter. The Heads of his Arguments were, the Judgment he pretended of ſeveral Authors upon the Point: The Practice of *France* and *Spain* and *Sueden* with them and ours, in the Time of his late Majeſty and King *James*; which he undertook to give me Examples of. And laſtly, that it could not be the meaning to drive an Enemies Trade, but only to preſerve a Friend's. I eaſily eluded this laſt by the Anſwer you made it, and by my own very true Proteſtations; that at my ſigning the Confirmation of thoſe Articles, I had no ſuch Senſe of them as he would now give them; but took the meaning of them to be juſt the ſame with the Words: That free Ships made free Goods in all Caſes, unleſs that of counterband. For the Senſe of Authors Writing upon general *Theams*, and for their own Credit or that of their Profeſſions; I ſaid, they could not be admitted to interpret any particular Treaties between Princes and States; who might

make what Agreement they pleaſed between themſelves, and very different from what Authors call *jus gentium*, or general Reaſon; by which I think they commonly mean their own. That, for the Practice of other Kings with them, it was no Rule of theirs with his Majeſty; nor any Agreement that we ſhould not have Juſtice from them, becauſe they could not obtain it from others. But on the contrary, though they had it not, yet they ever demanded it both of *France* and *Spain*; which was a certain Proof, that they eſteemed that Juſt in their own Caſe, which they will not allow to be ſo in ours. That, for the practice he offered to produce on our Parts, in his late Majeſty's Time, I ſhould be content to ſee it, but could not tell how it could ſquare with the preſent Caſe; ſince it was grounded upon Articles never in force between his Majeſty and this State, till the Treaty of *Breda*. I added to what I had ſaid in my Memorial; how unjuſt their Pretences was, to make a wreſted Interpretation of plain Words, without his Majeſty's Conſent. That it was not fair to do it, at a Time, when the Advantage of ſuch an Article, was only caſt on our ſide, by the common Revolutions of War and Peace, which might be in their favour to morrow, as they were

were in ours to day; whereas when the Advantage was by like Accidents caſt on their Side, as it had been with *France* and *Spain*, they had ever inſiſted on the very ſame Point that we do now, and never given over the Inſtances upon it, whether they received Satisfaction or no. After a long and a warm Debate, I gained this from the Penſioner; that for his own part, he was content it ſhould be as I deſir'd it, ſince the King underſtood it ſo, and it was to be reciprocal between us. That he could do nothing upon it in the States General, till the States of *Holland* aſſembled, which would be about a Fortnight hence: That he would then propoſe it there, and endeavour their complyance with his Majeſty; eſpecially if the Prince, at his Return, approved of it; and that, in the mean time, he would endeavour to have the Goods in the *Rebecca*, or the Product of them depoſited, till the States came to a Reſolution in this Matter; the Ship it ſelf being already free and gone, purſuant to a Reſolution taken by the State in *May* laſt upon this Point.

I have been larger in ſtating this Matter, as it ſtood between me and the Penſioner, that being of ſo mighty importance to our Trade at this Time, his Majeſty might both ſee the Right he had on his ſide, and

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be the firmer in maintaining it: And you may pleaſe to inſtruct me in any further Arguments againſt I enter the Liſts with Commiſſioners here, if they ſhould prove difficult, though the Penſioner be ſatisfied with it.

For the Paſſes and Orders to be ſent with the Ship of Advice for *Surinam*, he aſſures me they ſhall be ready againſt I receive the Names of Ship and Perſon; but excuſes their going with Blanks as a thing contrary to the conſtant Forms of this State; which indeed I doubted of before, and therefore took the Liberty to deſire your inſtructing me thereupon as ſoon as you could.

Tho' the Current News here be ſtill favourable to the Strength, or at leaſt Good Countenance of the Confederate Troops in *Alſatia*, yet I ſaw a Letter Yeſterday from a very good Hand, which makes a different Story, and ſays, they had given over all thoughts of fighting *Monſieur Turenne*; and that though the *Brandenburgh* and *Lunenburg* Troops talk'd of taking up their Winter Quarters in the Upper *Alſace*, while thoſe of the Emperor and the other Circles deſigned theirs in *Suabia*; yet it was believed at *Strasburg*, *Monſieur Turenne* would ſtill keep the Field, and either engage the Confederates, or elſe force them all to retire beyond the Rhine. All the

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countenance that has been made by the Horſe of the Confederates Armies in *Flanders*, has been, I ſuppoſe, only to keep the *French* a little alarm'd, ſo as to ſend no more of their Forces towards *Monſieur Turenne*. The Prince came to a Houſe he is building, in the Province of *Utrecht* on *Sunday*, made a great Hunting Party for Yeſterday, and intended to be here, as ſome ſay, to day; but as others, not till *Thurſday*, being the Day after the Bonfires intended for *Grave*: Yeſterday were ſent into my Yard about forty Pitch Barrels upon this Occaſion, being ſaid to be ſent by order of the States, and the like, or in proportion to other Foreign Miniſters; but I ordered them to be ſent back, and told ſome of the States, that whenever I made any ſuch Fire, I would do it upon his Majeſty's Charge, and no others; that in the mean time I did not think fit to do it at all upon this Occaſion, when his Majeſty had offered his Mediation in a Quarrel lying between two of his Allies; and that it would not look like the Part of a Mediator, to have his Miniſter thus concern himſelf, in ſucceſſes of either Side. They pleaded an old Form in this Matter, and that it was intended to be done by thoſe the States employ'd, and eſpecially in the chief open Places of the Town: Upon which I told them, they might

might do it how they pleaſed, but that I ſhould no way concern my ſelf in it.

I ask your Pardon for ſo long a Trouble, which I ſhall end with the Profeſſions of my being always,

SIR,

Your, &c.

To

To the KING.

Hague, Nov. 30. S. N. 1674

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

HAving ſeen the Prince twice ſince his Return hither, and at Leiſure, I thought it became me to give your Majeſty an Account of what I could obſerve, as to his preſent Diſpoſitions, both in general, and more particularly, in what concerns your Majeſty and the Buſineſs of the Peace. In general, I believe, he is pleaſed with the Life he hath led this Summer, and loves the Trade, and thinks himſelf better in Health and Humour the leſs he is at reſt: So that I doubt, the Motions towards Peace, muſt be made from his Intereſts, rather than Inclinations. For what touches your Majeſty, I find all the Expreſſions of Duty and Service, and Affection to be ſuch, as you can deſire, and to have all the Appearance that can be of ſincereneſs and Truth. And I believe them ſo the more, by his Highneſs's enlarging ſo much upon the Intereſt of a near Conjunction with your Majeſty, and between the Nations; which, he ſays, would make you both ſafe athome and abroad, and in need

of

of no other Allyances: And a great deal more of this kind.

For the Buſineſs of the Peace, though he complains very much of the ill performance of the *Spaniards* and *Imperialiſts*, yet I find him poſitive upon theſe Points: That this State can make no ſeperate Peace upon any Terms that *France* can offer them. That a General Peace cannot be made without leaving *Flanders* in a Poſture of defending it ſelf from any new and ſuddain Invaſion of *France*, againſt which no *Guarantees* could defend it. That *Spain* cannot quit the County of *Burgundy* nor *Cambray* upon any Exchange; nor any thing in *Flanders* beyond the Terms of the *Pyrenees*, unleſs it be *Aire* or St. *Omer*. That he had written to your Majeſty all he yet knew, of the *Spaniard's* Intentions; but if he might know upon what Terms you thought a Peace reaſonable, and deſir'd it, he would do all in his Power to bring it about, as he had done in the Buſineſs of the Mediation, which he told me was now accepted at *Madrid* as well as *Vienna*. When I ſaid, your Majeſty having been the Author and Guarand of the Peace at *Aix*, and not having ſeen the *French* yet beaten out of any one Town that was given them by that Treaty, could with ill Grace propoſe any thing to *France* beyond thoſe Terms,

or

or ſomething equivalent. He ſaid reſolutely, that 'twere better going on with the War, let it laſt as long, and coſt as much as it would; and that he believed all men of any ſenſe in this Country were of the ſame Mind: I told his Highneſs, that I doubted it, and wiſh'd that upon tryal he did not find it otherwiſe. But ſeeing him unmovable upon theſe Diſcourſes, I turned them another way, and ſaid; Though your Majeſty would omit nothing that became a Chriſtian King and a Friend to his Highneſs, in the Good Offices towards a Peace, yet if they were not underſtood to be ſo, your Majeſty might perhaps content your ſelf to grow rich, by the Encreaſe of your Cuſtoms and of Trade; and let them and their Neighbours knock their Heads together as long as they pleaſed. He ſmiled, and ſaid, he believed ſo: And for that Reaſon I talk'd of Terms which I knew the *Spaniards* could not accept of: And then he fell into Talk, how eaſie it was for your Majeſty to bring *France* to ſuch a Peace as you pleaſed, and how much it was your Intereſt to leave *Flanders* ſafe; and many things upon that Theam, that your Majeſty hath hear'd enough of before from *Monſieur Van Beuninghen*. The End was, that he would expect to know your Majeſty's Mind upon his laſt Letter,

to

to wch he could add nothing till then. And I thought your Majeſty by this Account, and the knowledge of your Mediation being accepted now by all Parties, would the better reſolve what ſtep to make next, in this Matter; which was the Occaſion of this Trouble: It is already too long, but muſt not end without the Marks of that Devotion wherewith I am,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's Moſt

Loyal and Moſt

Obedient Subject, and

Moſt Humble Servant.

To

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Dec. 4. S. N. 1674.

My LORD,

THE Unkindneſs I complained of from your Lordſhip, in giving me no knowledge before-hand of my Lord *Latimer*'s Journey, has been by his Lordſhip fully made amends for ſince: When upon his Arrival he was ſo kind as to come ſtraight away to my Houſe, as to his own, and uſe it ſo, as he at leaſt makes me believe; which I ſhall, I am ſure, love him for as long as I live, and ſerve him as far as I ſhall ever be able, both for your Lordſhip's ſake, and for his own. I waited upon his Lordſhip to the Prince, who received him not only well, but kindly; and I am ſure will uſe him ſo while he ſtays in this Country. I knew the other * Two Lords had no need of any Introduction, though they were pleaſed to deſire it; and therefore by Agreement between us, it was excuſed; and the Two Conferences they have had with his Highneſs have been without my intervention, or any other part than what my Lord Chamberlain has

* *Lord* Arlington, *and* Earl *of* Oſſory.

ſince given me. By all I yet know, there is nothing deeper in this Buſineſs than what your Lordſhip was pleas'd to tell me, ſo frankly and ſo kindly in the Letter I had the honour of receiving by my Lord *Latimer*; for which I return your Lordſhip my very hearty Acknowledgments, as I am ſure becomes me: And I may ſay very truly, that the Lights you pleaſed to give me there, were more than I have yet received any other way: For though I am told the main Errand of the Journey to be the ſame, as I receiv'd it from your Lordſhip; yet I hear nothing of a Letter from the Prince to *Monſieur Odyke*, having given a Riſe to it; and if your Lordſhip had not told me ſo, I ſhould be apt to doubt it, and to believe that other Circumſtances muſt have had their part in the firſt Conception of this Matter. I find by the Prince, as well as my Lord Chamberlain, that what your Lordſhip ſays only, you believe, is true, of their having no Powers or Inſtructions written, but a Credential as ample an honourable as can be. And upon the firſt part that was given us hither of this intended Journey, I remember the Prince told me, what your Lordſhip ſays with more ground, that he was ſure *Monſieur Ruvigni* had his part in it. For what your Lordſhip ſays of theſe two Lords Acquaintances

and

and Intereſts ſo great with the Prince, having occaſioned the Choice of their Perſon: All I know is, that if they doubted it, they did well to try; becauſe Friends that have been long aſunder, know not how they are together till they meet, eſpecially if they parted laſt, no better than I know ſome of theſe did.

Upon the whole, I am of opinion, that this Buſineſs will produce no Effect at all, proportion'd to the Noiſe it has made both in *England* and here; and that it may not go much farther than Expoſtulations and Compliments on both ſides: And perhaps if it were upon any great Buſineſs, the leſs of both might not be the worſe: When I ſaid Compliments, I intended not ſuch Expreſſions of Kindneſs as are not meant, but ſuch as are more or greater than there is any need of; and if what paſſes of this Kind have no farther End than I know of, I cannot tell whether there has been any great occaſion for them; ſince the Prince cannot ſay much more than he has done to me ever ſince our meeting, of his Affection and Service to his Majeſty. And on the other ſide I take him to be an unmovable Perſon in all Points of what he eſteems his own Honour and Intereſt, and not to be talk'd into, or out of any Points, where he eſteems either of them much concerned.

This is all I can yet ſay upon this Occaſion, and may be too much to have troubled your Lordſhip with, had not you given me the Encouragement. If I meet with any thing more important to your Lordſhip's Knowledge, I ſhall make uſe of the way you preſent me by a Servant of my Lord *Latimer*'s, and ſhould have been glad your Lordſhip had ſent me a Cypher over, which might have been neceſſary upon ſome Occaſions. My Wife is your Lordſhip's moſt Humble Servant, and acknowledges the Honour of your Remembrance: We are both ſo to my Lady. My Son will, I doubt, take notice of us no longer, having the Honour of being abſolutely retained in my Lord *Latimer*'s Service ſince his Arrival here.

I will add no more to your Lordſhip's preſent Trouble, beſides the aſſurance that the Confidence your Lordſhip is pleaſed to uſe me with, ſhall never be forgotten, nor undeſerved, as far as lies in the reach of ſo much Sincereneſs and Paſſion, as that wherewith I have always profeſs'd my ſelf,

My LORD,

Your, &c.

To the KING.

Hague, Dec. 4. S. N. 1674.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

I Received ſo great an Honour by a Letter which my Lord Chamberlain brought me from Your Majeſty, that I am ſure I ſhall never forget it, whether I live to deſerve it or no. Tho' his Lordſhip might juſtly have pretended to my Services here, from the Friendſhip between us, yet I hope Your Majeſty believes your Commands are ſo Sacred to me, as to need no help from my Inclinations, to make them obey'd: And therefore I ſhall only ſay, That if his Lordſhip fails of any Aſſiſtances or Services that I can give him here, it ſhall be his own fault; ſince I reſolve to go on as I have begun, in deſiring from him the Knowledge in what manner, and to what degree he would uſe them. I eſteem this Journey of ſo great Perſons, and ſo much my Friends, the beſt Fortune, and moſt honour that could have befallen me in this Place, and hope the Succeſs of it will be whatever your Majeſty propoſed to your ſelf by it: And beg your Majeſty to believe, that ſo your Buſineſs be well done, and

your Majeſty grow as great, and as happy as I wiſh you, I ſhall have nothing left to ask for my ſelf, by whoſe Services ſoever that be atchieved.

The two Conferences my Lord Chamberlain hath had with the Prince, have paſs'd by Concert between his Lordſhip and me, without my Intervention, or having had other Part in them than what his Lordſhip has ſince given me. All the Light I have offered to give to a Perſon that knows his way ſo well, hath been only my Opinion not to go too far in Expoſtulations: For beſides what I know of the Prince's Nature in that Point, I have obſerved them apt to end well between Lovers, but ill between Friends.

The Knowledge of all worth your Majeſty's Trouble from hence, will, I know, be tranſmitted from my Lord Chamberlain, and leave me no other Part than that of my Humble Acknowledgments upon the Confidence your Majeſty has been pleaſed to expreſs of me in ſo great Occaſions, and the plain Offers of that very Sincere Devotion, wherewith I am, and ſhall ever be,

Your Majeſty's moſt Loyal

Subject, and moſt Obedient

Humble Servant.

To

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague, Feb. 22*d*, S. N. 1675.

SIR,

SInce my laſt I have received Yours of the 5*th*, which brought me a Copy of the Moſt Chriſtian King's Anſwer to His Majeſty, upon the Propoſal of *Meurs* for the Place of Congreſs, and his Majeſty's Commands how to proceed farther with the States in this Matter. The beſt Account I can give you of my obeying them, will be by the incloſed Memorial, which being the firſt I have put in to the States upon the Subject of his Majeſty's Mediation, I thought might be fit to trouble you with; that ſo I might know, whether being left ſo much at large in this Commiſſion, the Conceptions I have upon it agree as they ought to do with thoſe of his Majeſty, both as to the main Scope, and as to the manner and Circumſtances of proceeding in it. One of the great ones, and moſt to be conſidered, I take to be that of perſuading the Confederates, that his Majeſty is as impartial as a Mediator ought to be in the Conduct of this Affair; and therefore you will find this Deſign run

through the whole Contexture of this Memorial: The reſt is, I hope, juſt what his Majeſty commanded me to purſue upon the Point of *Nimeguen*, and the Inſtances as ſtrong as I could make them; and may not poſſibly be leſs ſucceſsful for the Penſioner's Abſence, if the States think fit to come to a Reſolution upon it without his Communication, which I may yet know before the cloſure of this Letter: In the mean time I ſhall give you the State as well as I can of the *Swediſh* Mediation, in anſwer to the latter part of your Letter, and your Commands of doing all by Concert or Communication with him.

Hitherto he has always brought or ſent me Copies of all the Memorials he has put in upon the Subject of his Maſter's Mediation, within a Day or two after he delivered them; but without any Communication before of what they imparted, though they have been many, ſince he knew and complimented me, upon his Majeſty's Mediation being accepted by all Parties. I have obſerved the ſame Courſe with him, and ſtill give him part of what paſſed at the Conferences between me and the States Deputies upon the Same Subject; and we live in all Points the beſt and the friendlieſt that can be together. But upon the whole matter, I take his Majeſty's Mediation, and

that of the Crown of *Sweden*, to be different ſo eſſentially as well as in Circumſtances, that I know not how they can be ſo abſolutely joined as you ſeem to intimate; nor whether it ought to be endeavoured farther than maintaining the beſt Correſpondence that can be with them, and making as near as we can the ſame Pace, though ſeparately, in the Courſe of this Affair.

For the firſt; You know, when the *Swedes* Mediation began, We, and *France*, and theſe States were all the Parties in the Quarrel: That during the Mediation at *Colen*, by an Allyance with *Spain*, the Houſe of *Auſtria* came with other Princes to be Principals in it: That after this Incident, though the *Swediſh* Mediation continued, yet it reached no farther in the Negotiations of their Ambaſſadors, than the firſt Parties: And though it was endeavoured (whether it failed upon Punctilioes or more important Speculations) 'tis certain that neither the Emperor, nor the Court of *Spain* have ever yet been induced to accept of that Mediation. So that neither they on one ſide being refuſed by ſome Parties, nor the Pope who will be refuſed by others, can pretend to make the ſame Figure in this Buſineſs as his Majeſty does, who is accepted by all.

In the next Place; though Monſieur *Ehernſteyn* has ſince his Arrival here, very induſtriouſly kept up the Part of a Mediator, by very frequent and voluminous Memorials which he has lately Printed all together; yet they have been conſidered by the States little farther, than either as general Diſcourſes or Declamations upon the Theme of Peace; or elſe Diligences affected purpoſely to preſerve the Figure of Mediation in that Crown with this State, while they were at firſt preparing, and ſince engaged in open Hoſtility with the Elector of *Brandenburgh* one of their Allies: For whoſe Defence, they knew this State was by Treaty obliged to employ all their Forces; and come to an open Rupture with the Invader.

Ever ſince I came hither, I have been frequently entertained by thoſe of the States, and particularly by the Penſioner; with very ſharp Complaints of the *Suedes* towards them, and their open and avowed Partiality to *France*, in the whole Courſe of the Mediation. But more of the *Deshonnetetè* as they term it, to continue the Offers and Paces of Mediator after the Treaties formerly concluded with *France*, their Money ſo openly received, and their hoſtile March into the Duke of *Brandenburgh*'s Country. But after the News of this

this laſt Adventure, the Penſioner, in the Head of the States Deputies, at the next Conference upon their Deſires of his Majeſty's propoſing *Meurs*; told me, the States had at firſt ordered the ſame Deſire to be made to the *Swediſh* Ambaſſador, but had ſince reſolved that ſhould be omitted; becauſe they could not conſider that Crown any longer as Mediator, after their being engaged actually in a War with one of their principal Allies, and upon Meaſures formerly taken with their Enemies.

You know ſince, how this Motion of the *Swediſh* Army has been a blind ſort of Buſineſs on both Sides; they on the one Side apprehending the reſolute Profeſſions of this State to declare open War by Sea and Land, and not only to engage their Confederates, but endeavour it with the *Muſcovite* too; in caſe they did not retire their Forces out of the *Brandenburgh* Country; have ſeemed of late very irreſolute how to go on, or come off from the Adventure: And by a middle Courſe of only quartering in his Country, but attacking none of his Towns, and paying ſometimes for what they take, that they might not be ſaid to live wholly at Diſcretion, as in an Enemy's Country; they have ſeemed to deſign the giving juſt ſo much

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Satisfaction to *France* as might preſerve their Treaties with that Crown; and ſo little Offence to the Confederates, as might keep off a general Breach with the Emperor, as well as *Spain* and this State; and perhaps moſt of the Princes of the Empire too, in Conjunction with *Denmark*.

On the other Side; this State, though they have from the firſt March of the *Swediſh* Troops, declared poſitively to the Ambaſſador here; that they would open the War unleſs his Maſter recalled his Forces out of the *Brandenburgh* Territories; yet they have delayed it all this while, upon pretence of that Reſolution's running the Circle of all the Provinces with ſome more than uſual Delay: But in truth, that before they begin an Action of ſuch Conſequence, they may be firſt aſſured of their Confederates Intentions, take their Meaſures with them, for beginning as well as carrying on the War; and in the mean time, give *Sueden* Leave to avoid it by recalling their Forces. As this Matter has played upon theſe Circumſtances and Diſpoſitions; ſo you will eaſily imagine the Buſineſs of their Mediation has ſometimes appeared alive, and ſometimes dead; and whether it be one or t'other, for my part I cannot tell. For not-

notwithstanding what the Pensioner told me, as I before mentioned, and what I hear was replyed at a Conference by the Deputies to the *Suedish* Ambassadors upon that Occasion; yet I find he still continues his Memorials in the same Style; and will I know, make all the Paces immaginable, to preserve this Figure of Mediation as long as can be done.

Now whether this continue or no; which yet I will formally ask the Pensioner at his Return, as you desire: Yet I doubt for my part, whether it will not weaken the Force of his Majesty's Mediation (which will chiefly consist in the Opinion of its being Impartial) to joyn it openly and formally with that of *Sueden*; which whether the War go on or no, will ever be interpreted not only partial to *France*, but even to be managed by the very Motions they shall receive from thence.

I am ever &c.

To

To the KING.

Hague March 22. S. N. 1675.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

I Have this Day received the Honour of a Letter from your Majeſty of the 5th, for which I return my humble Acknowledgments and eſteem it much the greater, for having been written upon a Subject, which I knew your Majeſty would not treat otherwiſe than in Confidence; being indeed a very tender Point, and which touches the Strings; upon the good or ill tuning whereof, very much of your Majeſty's greateſt Concerns at this Time depends. I will confeſs that I was extreamly ſurprized, to read what your Majeſty ſays has been whiſpered to you, concerning an intended Journy of the Prince this Spring into *England*; and I ſhould be extreamly aſhamed to be found ignorant here of a Matter of ſuch Conſequence, that were known ſo far off. I have very little Belief of Infallibility, and leſs of no Man's than my own: But I am as confident as I can be, of having any of my five Senſes about me; that the Prince has never

never had yet one Thought of ſuch a Journy this Seaſon; unleſs it had happened that the Peace had been abſolutely made, which he has not lately had much Reaſon to hope for; and for the preſent, I believe he thinks no more of a Journy to *London*, than to *Venice*, nor indeed of any thing, but how to get out of this War with a little Honour and Safety; towards which, I am confident, he reckons upon pleaſing your Majeſty, as a much better and nearer way, than diſobliging you in any kind.

This is my Opinion, and I have not yet been out in any of my Calculations here. But becauſe I cannot reckon any thing to be neglected, that deſerves your Majeſty's Thoughts; I will at my firſt ſeeing the Prince upon his Return (which is expected after to morrow) let him know, that I hear ſuch a Thing has been whiſpered to your Majeſty; and how I conceive it muſt be underſtood, and will upon this Occaſion talk it to the Bottom; If I find it needs, either from what I meet in his Diſcourſe upon it; or can obſerve from his Countenance. But if I find it wholly as I expect, without any manner of Ground; I ſhall, with your Majeſty's Leave, neither ſhew him your Letter; nor ſpeak of it as a Thing Your Majeſty be-

believed, or reflected upon. And of all this I hope to give your Majeſty an Account by the next.

I can eaſily imagine, what Errand the Whiſperers of this Story muſt have pretended, to give ſuch a Journy of the Prince; about the Time of the Parliament's Sitting: And I will not anſwer for Monſieur *Van Beuninghen*'s buſy Talk at ſuch a Seaſon; though he may have as little Thanks for it here, as for all he has lately entered into of his own Head with Monſieur *Ruvigni*. But I ſhould be very ſorry to ſerve your Majeſty in this Figure, upon a Scene where any Motions ſhould ariſe towards the diſcompoſing Your Majeſty's Affairs either at home or abroad, or thoſe Meaſures you ſhall think fit to hold, in a Point ſo material to the Happineſs of your Reign. And on the contrary, I am pretty confident, that I could prevail both with the Prince and the State here, as to all that concerns themſelves, to refer the Buſineſs of the Peace wholly to your Majeſty, not as a Mediator only, but as Abſolute Arbiter, and without thinking of any other Recourſe, but to your Majeſty's Perſonal Diſpoſitions, and Judgment of what you eſteem ſafe for them and their Neighbours. And if the Point of Honour, and thereby indeed of Intereſt were not in it, not to abandon

bandon their Allies to whom they owe their own Preſervation, and are tyed by ſo many Treaties; I doubt not but I ſhould be able to ſend your Majeſty ſuch a Scheme from hence before I am a Week older.

If my Opinions are right, and your Majeſty be ſo ſafe and ſo eaſy here, as I believe, it will then be poſſibly worth your Majeſty's obſerving from what Quiver this Arrow came, and whether there be no Poyſon in it, that you may know the Hand another time. If I am miſtaken, and there was reaſon for ſuch a Suſpicion, your Majeſty I am ſure has a very ignorant Ambaſſador here, and who has loſt the Talent of ſerving you with the Succeſs has formerly attended him; tho' I am ſure he has loſt none of that hearty Zeal, wherewith he has been, and ſhall be ever,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's

moſt Faithful, &c.

To the KING.

Hague, March 25. S. N. 1675.

May it please Your Majesty,

IN pursuance of what I writ last Post; I waited on the Prince yesterday at his Return, and took occasion to tell him what I heard had been whispered to your Majesty about his intended Journey this Spring into *England*, without taking notice of having heard any thing of it from Your Majesty. The Prince told me, He knew very well what must be the meaning of such a Report: That he was very sorry to see some Persons about you resolved to do him all ill Offices to your Majesty, and endeavour to make things ill between you, let his Carriage be what it will. That, for his part, he would never deserve it, but he knew not how to help Peoples Talk: They might say, if they would, *That a Cow could catch a Hare*; but he did not know why any body should believe it. I interrupted him, and said, He might be confident your Majesty would be the last to

to believe any thing of his Highneſs's Ill Intentions towards you in any kind: And that I was ſure you believed nothing of this, whatever had been told you: That he knew very well how glad your Majeſty would be at all times to ſee him; but that it might be at ſometimes inconvenient to you both; and therefore Your Majeſty was confident, that whenever he had any Thoughts of it, the firſt Thing he would do would be, to acquaint you with it, and know your Opinion, and your Pleaſure upon it. The Prince reply'd, that he would be ſure to do ſo whenever there was Occaſion, but hitherto there had been none. That it was true, when my Lord *Arlington* was here, they talked ſometimes of his going into *England* this Spring, in caſe the Peace were made; or that if it were ſo far advanced, as to let him ſee it would be done, he ſhould have been content to go and conclude it in *England*: But this was only talk'd at their being here, and that my Lord *Arlington* had firſt begun it, and put him upon theſe Thoughts; that, ſince that Time, he had never thought more of it: And that I can tell very well, as Affairs went, if he had the greateſt mind in the World to go, he could not: And that if he could, he was ſure he ſhould never think of it, without firſt aſk-

ing your Majeſty's leave, and knowing that you liked it. With that he ſaid in ſome heat, Would to God none about the King had worſe Intentions to his Service than I have: But if he will not believe me, what can I do? I would be very glad to ſee the King, and have but too much Reaſon to deſire it; but I have ſomething elſe to do at this time than to think of ſuch Journeys.

I tell your Majeſty, as juſt as I can, his own Words, by which you will beſt judge of his Meaning: And upon this I told his Highneſs, I was very glad I was not miſtaken in him: For upon hearing what had been told your Majeſty upon this Subject, I had written to you the laſt Poſt; and thereupon repeated ſome of the Aſſurances I had given you, both of his never having had any ſuch thing in deſign; and of his Duty and Intentions towards your Majeſty, being in all Points what became him. The Prince told me, he was very much beholding to me for it, and ſwore he would always make my Words good; and that he would never deceive you.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty; I had written thus far in the Morning, and thought I had very little to add; but about one a Clock Afternoon, the Prince came to me, and ſent for me out of my Cloſet, where I

was locked up. When I came to him, he made me Excuſes, at firſt, in good Humour enough; but ſuddainly changing Countenance, he told me, he had receiv'd a Letter from my Lord *Arlington*, that he could not but come and ſhew me: For he knew not, for his part, what to ſay to it, nor what he meant by it: Thereupon he read it all to me; and upon that part which concerned his Journey into *England*, he ſaid, His Lordſhip knew well enough how far that was ever thought of, for he was the firſt that put me upon it: Then he went on, and read a long Period in Cypher, that begun about *de Moulin*'s being ſtill about him, and fomenting the Deſigns of engaging the Parliament this next Sitting in the Affairs of *France*; telling him thereupon, his Highneſs knew beſt whether ſuch Friendſhip were to be rely'd on, that were made *á coups des bâtons*: And that he knew very well, there were Diſcontents here as well as in other Places; and that, *Sion les touchoit on les pourroit faire ſaigner encore.* I repeat the Words as near as I can remember, becauſe I know not whether this was written or no by your Majeſty's Communication or Command; and the Prince reading it with ſome ſtammering upo n the interlining of the Cypher, and yet with a good deal of Emotion; I will not anſwer

for every Word, but I am ſure I am right in the groſs, upon reading the laſt words, *on les pourroit faire ſaigner.* The Prince ſaid, he underſtood this very well; for it was the ſame with what my Lord *Arlington* told *Monſieur Reed* in *England*; That if the King would go about it, he could make him be ſerved as *Monſieur de Witt* was: Then he ſwore in a Rage, that he could not bear this Language from my Lord *Arlington*, nor live any longer with him as he had done. That under profeſſion of Friendſhip, and of dealing plainly with him, he ſaw very well that he did him all the Miſchief he could, and that he could bear it no longer. When I told the Prince that what my Lord *Arlington* writ was upon what others had ſaid, and endeavoured to make Your Majeſty believe; he ſaid, No, he believ'd it was my Lord *Arlington* himſelf; and that he had made his Brother *Odyke* hinder *du Moulin*'s going to *Surinam*, on purpoſe that he might ſtill have that Pretext of doing him ill Offices to your Majeſty. That however, if he had been ſuch a Friend as he pretended, whenever any body elſe offered at doing him ſuch ill Offices to your Majeſty, my Lord *Arlington*, that knew his Intentions ſo well, ſhould have given them the Lie, and have anſwered to Your Majeſty for him, and

not

not gone away himſelf with the Belief of them, or write him ſuch impertinent Language upon no manner of Grounds: Then he wiſh'd he might die on the Place, if he, or any Man he knew here, had the leaſt Thought of making any Intriegues with the Parliament, or offering at any ſorts of Application to them; or if ever he had thought or done any thing in the War it ſelf, that deſerved any ſuch Language as this. But then he ſtopt, and ſaid, he would write to my Lord *Arlington* what was fit to be ſaid to ſuch a Letter: But he would write to Your Majeſty too, and deſired me I would convey it to You, ſo as it might be delivered You in private; for unleſs he could enter into a perſonal Confidence with Your Majeſty, he knew not how to live with You; for he knew not which of Your Miniſters he could truſt, ſince my Lord *Arlington* uſed him after this manner. I promiſed his Highneſs to convey his Letter to You; and after a great deal of Paſſion vented, and with all the Profeſſions imaginable, not only of his own Innocence, but that no man ſhould dare do any thing againſt your Majeſty's Service, whilſt he had any Power. He left me; and I thought it my Duty to give Your Majeſty this bare Account of all that paſs'd, which I thought of ſo great Concernment.

What is ſo to Your Majeſty's will ever make me loſe all other Regards. I told Your Majeſty at my coming away, I would depend upon none but your ſelf: When that fails, I know the way to my Garden again. In the mean time you ſhall be ſerved with the Sincere and Particular Devotion that becomes,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt

Loyal and moſt

Obedient Subject

and Servant.

To

To the Governor and Company of Merchant Adventurers.

Hague, March 26. S. N. 1675.

SIR,

I Received not long ſince a kind Letter from you in the Name of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of *England*, and ſhould be very glad to deſerve the good Opinion you therein expreſs of me, and of my good Intentions towards the Service of your Company in its juſt Pretenſions here. It would be an Honour to me, during my preſent Embaſſy, to retrieve them, after what happen'd to their Prejudice before my laſt Arrival: As it was one to me in my laſt Embaſſy to reprieve them, which I think indeed I may wholly attribute to my ſelf. I am ſure no man can be a greater Servant, and Well-wiſher to all Deſigns of advancing the Trade of our Nation, than I; nor conſequently, to the Proſperity of your Company, and of the City of *London* where it reſides, and where I eſteem

I eſteem it an Honour to have been born. But as to the Particular Branches of it, eſpecially this at *Dort*, I dare not take upon me to judge how much the eſtabliſhment of it in its former Conſtitutions, imports the Advancement of our Trade; becauſe his Majeſty and Council ſeem to have put ſome Diſcountenance upon that Opinion, by the Liberty or Connivance given for ſo many Years paſt to the interloping Trade, which makes it look as if the preſent Intereſt of your Company here, were no more than the bare Intereſt of ſome few Merchants habituated at *Dort*, and their Enjoyments of certain Exemptions, which are conſiderable perhaps to their Domeſtick and Perſonal Concernments, but very little ſo to the Wollen Trade of the Nation, in which they have but a very ſmall ſhare in proportion to what the Interlopers drive.

I may have leave to ſay, that in what Tranſactions have paſs'd through my Hands upon this Subject, during my laſt and preſent Embaſſy, I have gone to the bottom of this Affair, and ſeen by what Springs it has moved: And being a very Plain Man, I will deal ſo with you in this Matter, and tell you, that I believe

lieve the Diſcouragements given to your Company in *England*, by the Liberties allowed the Interloping Trade, both at firſt raiſed, and have ever ſince fomented the Ill Talent that you know has been born to it for ſeveral Years by this Province of *Holland*: For as to the reſt of the Provinces, they have none at all againſt you. I believe the bottom of it here is, that they ſee plainly whatever Priviledges are allow'd your Company at *Dort*, will be given by the other Towns, either openly or covertly to all thoſe Interlopers, who bring their Woollen Manufacture directly thither: And in this the very States themſelves cannot hinder what each Town will do for their own Particular Advantage. And the Effect they apprehend from this is a general Encreaſe of the imported Manufactures from *England*, and thereby a proportionable Decay of their own; upon which the Intereſt of this Province very much turns: So that I have had it ſaid to me almoſt in plain Terms by the Penſioner here, That if the King will forbid the Interloping Trade, and Reſtore your Company to its full Rights and Priviledges from his Majeſty, they will do the ſame to all they

they have formerly enjoyed from the States.

When I have ſaid this, I have told you all I know in your Affair, the States General having deferred their Anſwer to my Memorial, till the Repreſentations upon it ſhall come from the States of *Holland*: But I have not told you all I ſuſpect; which is, That in the preſent State of your Company in *England*, it will be very difficult to reſtore it to the former State here, both from what I have already ſaid, and from the Conſtitution of this Government; by which it is very eaſy to prevent a Reſolution of the States in any ſuch Matter, becauſe the engaging of one Town in a Province, or of one Province in the States may do that: But on the contrary, 'tis very hard to revoke a Reſolution paſs'd, becauſe the Conſent of all is neceſſary.

Upon this you will beſt judge what Reflections, as well as what Paces to make in your Buſineſs. And for my part, as my Duty muſt ever engage my Obedience to whatever Commands I receive from his Majeſty upon this Matter, ſo my Inclinations will always improve it, all that may be, to the Service of your Company, which bears at leaſt the Name of our Nation

tion and Commerce, tho' many would have it believed that neither of them are much concerned in it. I am very much ſo in the good Will and Opinion of ſo worthy and honourable a Society, which I deſire you to let them know, and how much I ſhall, upon all Occaſions, endeavour to obſerve them; being to them, and to your ſelf,

SIR,

An Affectionate

Humble Servant.

To

To Sir *Joseph Williamson.*

Hague, Apr. 16. S. N. 167[illegible]

SIR,

I Am to acknowledge yours of the 30th past, but cannot take upon me to justifie, or to clear any part of that *Paper* given me by the States concerning the Terms of a Peace; They would have been glad to have been excused from doing it at all; and when 'twas done, were glad 'twas off their Hands; and I suppose have thought little of it, either before, or since: I prest them to it, because you were pleased to press me, but knew very well it could be nothing but a piece of Form, and that the Secret Hinges of such an Affair could not turn before forty People, but must fasten first between his Majesty and the Prince, and then pass the Forms of the States. His Highness is now perfectly well, has been up and eat Flesh these four or five days, and shifted to day; so that his Life may be reckoned much safer than it has been these seven Years. The Stories you say are much wonder'd at there, of his having been

been visited by the Foreign Ministers and others every day in his Sickness, were so far from having any ground, that there were but four people, besides the Physicians, that ever went to him; which were, the *Rhingrave*, *Monsieur Odyke*, *Monsieur Overkirke*, and *Monsieur Bentinck*, of which the two last were all that watch'd with him 4 Nights in turns; and indeed I never knew any Sickness of a great Man so well govern'd as his; for you know how apt they are upon these Occasions to be endanger'd by the officious exercise of too much Care and Skill. Mr. *Skelton* and Mr. *Ashton* arriv'd here on *Sunday*, and deliver'd their Letters that Night, but the Prince excus'd seeing them in two or three days, so as they are gone to *Amsterdam*. The Elector of *Brandenburgh* will I hear come hither either the end of this Week, or beginning of next; and I hear for a Secret, that the two Dukes of *Lunenburgh*, that is, *Cell* and *Osnabrug*, will be here too at the same time, upon an Interview with the Prince, in which the Marquess *de Grana* intervenes from the Emperor, to agree upon the Measures of this next Campaign. The *Danish* Ministers have received the Money, or the greatest part of it agreed by their late Treaty, to be paid them before they take the Field; that is, the whole *Quota* of *Spain* amounting to

85000

85000 *M.* Crowns is paid by *Don Emanuel de Lyra*, and the *Quota* of *Holland* and *Zealand* is likewiſe paid; but whether they will immediately break with *Sweden*, or ſtand upon this States doing it firſt, or at the ſame time, I cannot tell; or whether this State will go ſo high or no.

I have one from you by *Monſieur de Bas*, who ſhall want no aſſiſtance I can give him here. I have likewiſe a Letter from his Majeſty counterſigned by you, in favour of the *Elizabeth*, a Ship taken upon the ſame Pretence with the *Rebecca*, concerning which I wrote in my laſt, and deſired the Declaration of his Majeſty's Underſtanding that Article to include the Trading from Enemies to Enemies Ports: When this is done, I hope to retrieve theſe two Ships, if the Owners are not wanting to themſelves in attending the proſecution.

I am ever,

SIR,

Your moſt Faithful

Humble Servant.

To Sir *William Lockhart.*

Hague, Apr. 18. S. N. 1675.

My LORD,

I Am oblig'd to your Excellency for the Favour of one of the *5th* paſt, with the Account of your ill uſage on that ſide, in point of your Letters; which methinks does not agree very well with the good Intelligence between our Two Courts, deſerving more Confidence, and fairer Appearances as far as I underſtand. Your Lordſhip knows beſt the ways of redreſſing it, though the loſs or delay of my Letters hardly deſerve that Care.

The Tumult at *Bourdeaux* was in my Opinion very prudently appeaſed; though I know not whether the Succeſs or Example of ſuch an Adventure may not ſtir Humours, or raiſe hopes of the ſame kind in other great Towns. I confeſs, as much as I have read and thought, makes me of Opinion, that thoſe Governments are ſafeſt and happieſt for thoſe that govern, which are eaſieſt for them that obey; and which engage Subjects to love and ſupport them,

by the Opinion, they ſhall loſe by any Change. And the contrary of this might be poſſibly felt in *France* it ſelf, if ever they ſhould meet with a Misfortune from abroad: But that is very unlikely from the preſent Proſpect of their own great force, and wiſe Conduct, compared with the ill Concert and ill Succeſs of their Enemies; and the laſt is like to continue as long as the firſt, which, you know, is natural to all Confederacies. Yet, whoever goes to Sea, or to War, runs a Venture; which is all I ſhall ſay of Matters out of my way, and my reach; and not trouble you with the great things ſaid here by the Marquis *de Grana*, of his Maſter's Army this Year like to act under *Montecuculi* in *Alſatia*. All the News I can tell your Lordſhip from hence, is, the ſafety of the Prince; whoſe Illneſs has paſſed without the leaſt ill Sign or Accident; and his Carriage in it with ſo great Equalneſs of Temper, and Conſtancy of Mind; tho' it be not a thing of moment, yet has much confirmed the great Opinion I ever had, of his Perſonal Qualities being very extraordinary. I believe he will be abroad to morrow, unleſs he keep in one Day to take Phyſick, which he is but hardly perſuaded to.

Mr. *Skelton* and Mr. *Aſhton* came hither on *Sunday* from the King and Duke upon this

this Occaſion of the Prince's Illneſs, but have not yet ſeen him, and will not return till next Week.

I am ever with great Reſpect and Truth,

My LORD,

Your Excellency's moſt

Obedient Humble Servant.

To the KING.

Hague, Aug. 13. S. N 1675

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

SInce my Return to this Place, I have had two very long Conferences with the Penſioner, which I will not trouble your Majeſty with the Detail of. The Iſſue was; that though they are grown here into better heart, by the Succeſs in *Pomerania*, and upon the *Rhine*, yet I found him ſo ſenſible of the Hazard this State runneth in the Perſon of the Prince, and of the Advantage they will receive, by the *Guaranty* of *Flanders*, and defenſive Alliance Your Majeſty is reſolv'd on with them, in caſe they come to a Peace by your Intervention: That he at length fell in ſo far with what I told him were your Majeſty's Thoughts upon the Conditions of the Peace, as to aſſure me, that he would repreſent them to the Prince of *Orange*, with all the Advantage he could. Beſides the Difficulties he made about *Burgundy*, in the Conſequences of it, both to the Emperor and *Spain*; He fell on himſelf with great Perplexity, upon that of the Prince's own Patri-

Patrimonial Eſtate in that County; and ſaid, thoſe Lands with *Orange* would give him too great a Dependance upon *France*; whereas he deſired to ſee his Highneſs have all upon *England*, and none there. Upon the whole, we both concluded, that it was a Matter which could not be ſo well deduced to the Prince by Letter, as by Diſcourſe; and that it were beſt for the Penſioner to find ſome other Pretence of attending his Highneſs, and as ſoon as he could. The Penſioner, though he agreed with me in it, yet ſaid, the Prince was ſo unwilling he ſhould leave the *Hague*, that he would not do it without firſt asking his Highneſs's Leave, which he would do by an Expreſs immediately; by whom I writ likewiſe to the Prince upon the ſame Occaſion, but referring all Particulars to the Penſioner, when he ſhould attend him. We expect a Return of this Diſpatch on *Thurſday*; and whenever it comes, the Penſioner will away the ſame Day, and in the mean time ſtart ſome Pretence, that may give no Jealouſie to the Confederate Miniſters here, with whom we agreed this Matter ſhould not take Air, but by conſent between Your Majeſty and the Prince. I ſee more appearance of a Peace than a Truce; for I find the Penſioner as averſe from this laſt, as inclined to the other. His chief Rea-

ſons are, that there needs as much Negotiation to obtain the one, as the other. The Charge of a War will not be leſſened by a Truce; and if the People here fall once into the uſual Courſe and Security of Trading, they will not be prevail'd with to return again into the War, though *France* ſhould inſiſt upon the moſt unreaſonable Terms.

For what concerns the *Swede*, the Penſioner is of Opinion, that nothing can be negotiated with them, ſeperate from the Confederates on both ſides; tho' he ſaith, a Private Overture has been made, that in this Caſe this State will procure a Peace between that Crown and the Confederates; *Sweden* will employ not only their Offices, but their Forces too, if there be need, to induce *France* to a Peace, upon the Terms of *Aix la Chapelle*, with an Exchange of *Aeth*, *Charleroy*, and *Oudenarde*, for *Aire* and St. *Omer*. Whether this have any Ground or no, ſo much is, I think, out of doubt; that the *Swedes* have an extream Deſire to get out of the War, and into the Mediation again, but will, I believe, find Difficulties in both. I have entertained Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* by this Night's Pacquet upon thoſe Matters which were pointed at by my Inſtructions; but thought it became me to trouble Your Majeſty with

the

the Account of ſuch as I had the honour of receiving from your own Diſcourſes; and choſe this Conveyance by the Captain of the Yacht, as both ſurer and ſpeedier too, if not hindred by croſs Tides in the River.

I cannot end this Trouble without my humble Acknowledgments for that particular Confidence wherewith your Majeſty hath been pleaſed to honour me, in my late Attendances upon your Majeſty in *England*; and which I am much prouder of, than I could be of any Titles or Advantages that are the common Objects of other Mens Purſuit and Ambition. I aſſure your Majeſty, mine ſhall never go farther, than to deſerve, or at leaſt, acknowledge the Honour you are pleaſed to do me, by all the Services of my Life; and by the moſt conſtant Devotion and perfect Truth, wherewith I am, and ſhall be ever,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt

Loyal and moſt Obedient

Subject and Servant.

To Mr. *S*-------*y*.

Hague, September 3. S.N. 1675.

SIR,

I Writ to you from *London* two or three times, whether acknowledging any of yours or no I cannot tell; for the Thoughts of thoſe common Forms enter not into our Commerce, farther than to make the coming Safe of what is intended between us. Therefore 'tis fit to tell you, that I had two from you while I was in *England*; one by Mr. *Greenwood*, and the laſt of *July* 21ſt. juſt before my coming away. I ſtay'd there juſt ſeven Weeks, which was much longer than was intended when I was ſent for; as I muſt tell you I was, by the King, though I think not above two knew of it; and I was to make my Journy a Thing of my own Deſire, and deſigned for my private Occaſions; which you know I do not much Trouble my ſelf about. The King happened to have no Buſineſs ſo much in his Head all the Time of my ſtay, as what turns a good deal upon my Hands; and ſo by falling very often into very long Converſations, and privately

privately with me; gave Occaſion for a great deal of Talk both there and abroad, and Expectations of ſome very deciſive Meaſures taken upon the Buſineſs of a Peace; which when all is done, both as to Conditions, Place, Time, and manner of Treaty; will depend much upon what ſhall prove the final Event of this Campaigne. Things have hit ſomething worſe of late for the *French* than before: But the Armies both in *Alſatia* and *Flanders*, having been left by our laſt Letters in ſight of one another, will tell us how the Year, and the Hopes of both Parties will end. Before this can come to you, 'tis likely you will hear the Succeſs a ſhorter way; for I ſend this by Mr. *Lock*'s Conveyance, having found no kind of Encouragement to uſe the *French* Poſts between this and *Paris*: and ſo intending this for no further Intelligence, than of what paſſes between our ſelves; that it ſelf is nothing more, nor like to be, it ſeems, in haſt than the very needleſs Aſſurances, of what I know we both feel at Heart, in the Continuance and Warmth of our Kindneſs and good Wiſhes to one another wherever we are; and the Satisfaction we ſhall receive in the Knowledge of what becomes of us.

There ſeems not yet any certainty of the *Congreſs*, and till then I ſuppoſe I am fixed here: Whenever that happens, 'tis intended I ſhall make a Part of it, with what Company I know not; My Lord *Berkley*'s Embaſſy into *France* being like enough to break that Deſignation. Mr. *Fenwick* has My Lord *Clare*'s Regiment, and will find Advantages here if he deſerve them; being the only *Engliſh* Man of Quality in the Prince's Service. I expect you ſhall be as good as your Word in writing ſometimes where you are, how you do, and think to diſpoſe your ſelf. I never wanted you more than I did all the Time I was in *England*; and never loved you better than I do, and ſhall do while I live.

SIR,

Yours &c.

To

To the KING.

Hague September 6. S. N. 1675.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty.

THE Penſioner came to me upon his Return from the Camp, and gave me this Account of the Prince's Anſwer, to the ſeveral Points I had diſcourſed to him here. Firſt, That his Highneſs gave your Majeſty humble Thanks for the Confidence you had uſed towards him, in letting him know your own Thoughts upon the Subject of the Peace; which he would endeavour to deſerve by communicating all his to your Majeſty, upon this and all other Matters, as he would do to a Father. That he was very glad of the Intentions your Majeſty expreſt, to enter into cloſer Meaſures with him and this State; which his Highneſs would promote all that could be on this Side: And that he eſteemed this a better Guaranty for *Flanders*, than any formal one that could be given upon the Peace. And therefore deſired, that the Project of ſuch an Alliance as your Majeſty will be content to make with them, may be agreed

on

on as ſoon as your Majeſty pleaſeth; though you ſhould not think fit to conclude it formally before the Peace, which yet his Highneſs rather deſired; becauſe after, there will be no way of keeping a Party in this State, from endeavouring to renew their old Meaſures with *France*; but letting them ſee they were already taken with *England*, and their Security found with us, which they pretend to by the *French*.

That for the Terms of a Peace, the Prince for his own Part would be very well content to refer them wholly to your Majeſty. But being with the States engaged to their Confederates, by Honour and Treaties, they were forced in ſome meaſure to conſider what would ſatisfy them. That he doubted, as things now ſtood, they would not be induced to a Peace, without the Terms of *Aix la Chapelle*, and the Reſtitution of *Charleroy*, *Aeth* and *Oudenarde*; as abſolutely neceſſary to make ſome Frontier for *Flanders*. That if *France* inſiſted to have the County of *Burgundy*, it would find more Difficulty; and that the *Spaniards*, but eſpecially the *Emperor*, put ſo great Weight upon it, that he doubted they would not only expect thoſe three Towns; but likewiſe *Tournay*, *Courtray*, *Liſle* and *Doway*.

That

That the Prince for his part, rather wiſh'd your Majeſty would propoſe the Peace upon the firſt of theſe Plans; wherein he had very good Aſſurance, you would be ſeconded by *Sueden*: But if you ſhould rather chuſe to have *Burgundy* left to the *French*, neither his Highneſs nor He believed the States would make any Difficulties upon it. And though he were very ſenſible of your Majeſty's Kindneſs, in the Offers concerning his own particular Intereſt there; yet he aſſures your Majeſty, whatever he hath or may ſuffer in them, that ſhall be no ſort of Hindrance to the Peace.

That whatever Propoſition towards a Peace your Majeſty ſhall think fit to make; the Prince deſires it may be done, as ariſing wholly from your ſelf; without Notice of any private Intelligence with him: And he thinks the beſt way of doing it, will be at the *Congreſs* at *Nimeguen*; where he doth not believe the *French* will make any farther Difficulty of ſending their Ambaſſadors, when thoſe of your Majeſty ſhall be there; and that the *Suedes* as well as the Confederates, will certainly ſend theirs immediately upon it.

This is the Sum of the Penſioner's Diſcourſe to me from the Prince. And when I told him that I ſuppoſed his Highneſs meant, the Reſtitution of thoſe three Places

Places ſhould be made in Exchange for *Aire* and St. *Omers*, as was ſpoken of at my Lord *Arlington*'s being here: He told me the Prince mention'd no ſuch Thing; and though he confeſs'd what had paſs'd in the Winter; yet he thought as Affairs had ſince changed, *France* might find Reaſons to induce them to a Peace upon theſe Terms: Yet upon farther Argument he ſaid, that if your Majeſty ſhould think fit to propoſe an Exchange at the Treaty, he believed the States would not be againſt it. But he deſired that whatever your Majeſty reſolved on, might be propoſed at the *Congreſs*; and not be in the mean time communicated to Monſieur —— but that if your Majeſty deſired any farther Lights from hence, you would pleaſe to receive them as you have done theſe; aſſuring me that no Perſon but the Prince and himſelf had been, or ſhould be acquainted with what had paſs'd; and adding that it was great Kindneſs in your Majeſty to avoid the Noiſe which my going to the Prince would have made, ſince his own had made too much among the *Spaniards* in the Army. Upon the whole, I find the Hearts of the Confederates are grown high with their late Succeſſes, and with Hopes of greater before this Campaigne ends; and that the Prince is very much

much bent upon having his Share in the Honour of it, either by a Siege or a Battle, which I believe we may ſuddenly hear of, and that *Charleroy* is deſigned. The Event hereof, as well as of the farther Action yet expected in *Alſatia* and *Treves*; will ſo much govern the Conditions of the Peace, that I do not ſee how your Majeſty can at preſent, be Maſter of them, farther than by bringing it to a *Congreſs*, and making the Overtures there, according to the Poſture of Affairs at that Time; when no new Succeſſes on either Side ſhall ariſe in that Seaſon to change the Scene. I can yet ſee no farther, unleſs your Majeſty can think of any Temper, wherein *France* and the Prince may be like to agree before hand, which will depend upon the Opinion each Side hath of their Affairs. Your Majeſty will gueſs at that of the Confederates by what I have written; and I hope, knows that of *France* by better Hands. I humbly beg your Majeſty's Pardon for the neceſſary Length of this Trouble, and your Acceptance of the true Devotion wherewith I am and ſhall ever be,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt Loyal, and moſt Obedient Subject and Servant.

To

To the KING.

Hague September 20. S. N. 1675.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

HAving found the Penſioner ſenſible how little Reaſon this State would have upon any Succeſſes, to change the Terms they propoſed to themſelves for a Peace, ſince they had no Pretenſions of their own for carrying on the War; and having touched the ſame String in a Letter I writ to the Prince, upon the Death of the Princeſs Dowager. I received one yeſterday from his Highneſs of the 17th, wherein were theſe Words; „ *Je ne voy* " *pas qu' avant que j' arrive à la Haye je* " *pourrois faire quelque choſe pour l' avance-* " *ment de la paix, laquelle pourtant je ſou-* " *haite paſſionnement ſur le pied que je vous* " *ay toûjours dit.* I ſhould be glad your Majeſty and the Prince were ſo agreed before a *Congreſs* begins, as to draw things towards the ſame Head in all Matters that ſhall be negotiated there: And I ſee no other

other difference than what there may be in the Value of the County of *Burgundy*, or *Aire* and St. *Omer*. I find them here of opinion, that nothing can be advanced towards a Peace otherwiſe than at a *Congreſs*; which they ſeem to ground only upon the great Variety and Number of Parties and Intereſts that are engaged now in the War. But I believe this proceeds chiefly from the *Spaniards*, who are extream jealous of all private Meaſures that may be taken between your Majeſty and the Prince, upon the Subject of the Peace.

Your Majeſty will beſt judge, whether you are likely to prevail with the Emperor to releaſe Prince *William* before the Concluſion of a Peace; or with *France* to inſiſt no farther upon this Point before a Treaty begins, and will pleaſe accordingly to apply your Offices towards ſome Way or other, of overcoming this Difficulty, which muſt be the firſt open Step that can be made towards the Peace, that ſo as little of the Seaſon for a Treaty may be left as the Campaigne will allow.

I will not encreaſe your Majeſty's preſent Trouble, beyond the Profeſſions of that humble and hearty Devotion, wherewith I am and ſhall be ever,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt

Loyal and moſt

Obedient Subject

and Servant.

To

To the KING.

Hague, Septem. 27. S. N. 1675.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

SO Great an Honour as I received by a Letter from your Majeſty, has made me equally ſenſible how much I am to acknowledge it, and which way I may beſt deſerve it, by applying my whole Endeavours to what I find is ſo much in your Majeſty's Thoughts. We are now ſo near an end of the Campaigne, that I do no longer expect any deciſive Action from it: And when all the Fights and all the Bonfires are done, I believe the greateſt Effect of it will be beſt judged by the Winter Quarters of the *Imperial* Army. Whether Count *Montecuculi* will be able to gain them in *Lorain* and the upper *Alſatia* (as he propoſes, and I hear has promiſed the Emperor) or ſhall be forced to ſeek them on t'other ſide the *Rhine*, which muſt happen, in caſe he does not maſter *Haguenau* and *Saberne*. For the Battles expected either in *Pomerania* or *Flanders*; I am apt to think neither Party will ſeek them, without ſuch Advantages as the other will not give; ſo as the Year may

end without them. And your Majesty may already guess how the next Scene is like to open; and upon what Foot the Negotiations of a Peace are like to begin. On this Side I find, the Overtures of them are expected from your Majesty (though I believe both the Court of *Rome*, and of *Sueden* may affect that Honour) and they are, I suppose, to be made by two different Motions at the same Time, the one publick, by advancing the *Congress* and some Proposition there (or middle Scheme between the Pretensions of the Parties) that may serve for a Ground upon which the Treaty may begin: The other private, by feeling the Pulses on each Side, and judging from thence whence the neareſt Approaches are like to be made. For the *Congress*, your Majesty has all the Reason in the World not to send your Ambassadors, till you have assurance that those of both Parties will immediately follow; and towards this, I see no other Motions to be made on this Side, than for your Majesty either to write to the Emperor, or to give me a Command to speak to his Minister here; and by one of these ways either to make it your Desire, that in Consideration of your Majesty as Mediator; he will make way for the *Congress*, by putting Prince

William

William of *Furſtenburgh* into ſome Neutral Hands without further Condition: Or elſe propoſe, that he may be ſent to *Venice*, upon Caution taken from the State, that if the Peace ſucceed not, he ſhall be returned to *Vienna*.

For the Pulſe on this Side, I will aſſure your Majeſty it ſtill beats very faſt and very high, in all theſe Provinces towards the Peace; ſo that in caſe the *Congreſs* begins, and at *Nimeguen* as it is at preſent agreed (that is, in the Eye of theſe People) I think I might undertake to make them agree to your Majeſty's abſolute Arbitrage, in any Difficulty that might ariſe upon it. And the Suſpicion of ſuch violent Influences from the Bent of the People here, will make the Houſe of *Auſtria* endeavour (though upon other Pretences) to remove the *Congreſs* to ſome remoter Place. As to *Spain*, I am not of the ſame Opinion; and find by my laſt Diſcourſes with *Don Emanuel de Lyra*, what Reaſon the Prince had in his laſt with the Penſioner, to make ſo much Difficulty upon the Point of *Burgundy*: For when I began only to touch that String, by ſaying the greateſt Difficulty would lye there, and that your Majeſty agreed with the Confederates in the Opinion of an abſolute Neceſſity, to make a Frontier

for Flanders. *Don Emanuel* interrupted me *briskly*, and ſaid; *Qu' on ne ſe flatte pas ſur ce point, car nous perdrons plûtôt toute la Flandre par la guerre, que de ceder la Bourgogne par la paix.* However, I do not deſpair upon this Point it ſelf, if your Majeſty and the Prince ſhould come to agree in it; becauſe I know how unwilling the Houſe of *Auſtria* will be to break from this State, in the Courſe of the Treaty; and that in all has paſſed of late between them, they have not ſo much conſidered any Advantages they expected from the War; as what they might hope by cloſing ſuch Meaſures with this State as might ſerve them upon all Occaſions, even after the Peace. And in any new Conjunctures that may open when the King of *Spain* grows of Age, by himſelf or ſome ſettled Miniſtry to direct the Councils, and head the Actions of that Crown.

But this is the hardeſt of the Game: Whereas if your Majeſty ſhall on the other Side find *France* diſpoſed by the late ill Current of their Affairs, to come up to the Prince's firſt Project; which was the four Towns for *Aire* and St. *Omer*: I ſhall look upon the Peace as made, notwithſtanding any new Incidents that may fall in, either from the Empire or the *Dane*. I will deſire your Majeſty not wholly to

forget

orget the Advantages that were offered you from hence upon that Scheme, of a Marriage between the two Crowns, in caſe any way ſhould open towards it; by the great Variety of Accidents that may yet poſſibly happen in the Progreſs of a War; becauſe in all Events, *France* with that may find an Iſſue with Honour, and your Majeſty with Profit as well as Applauſe.

For that wherein your Majeſty wiſhes the Penſioner's Eyes were opened; I have often diſcourſed upon that Subject to him and others in the chief Direction here, ſince the Scene began to change to the Diſadvantage of *France*. But they all anſwer, theſe Conſiderations will not be in Seaſon till *Spain* ſhall arrive at the Terms of the *Pyrenees*; beyond which if any Step ſhould ever be made, they ſay the Intereſts of this State will change, and not before. But there is yet another Byas in this Matter; and that is, the *Loveſtyn* Parties being ſo much bent upon the Meaſures with *France*, which turns thoſe of the Prince and the preſent Government here, ſo much more upon *Spain*. But theſe will leſſen by nothing ſo much as by your Majeſty's Advances into cloſer Meaſures and Confidences with them, and by that means taking off their Dependances

from the other Crowns, and turning them wholly upon Yours. All which lyes as I ſuppoſe, in your Majeſty to do, at what Time and in what Degree ſoever you pleaſe; as you may judge by the laſt Account I gave of the Prince's and Penſioner's Diſcourſes upon this Subject.

I am to beg your Majeſty's Pardon for this Length, which I have been engaged in, by the Deſire of giving what Light I thought might be neceſſary now at your Majeſty's Entrance upon this great Work of the Mediation: I am and ſhall be all my Life,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt

Loyal and moſt

Obedient Subject,

and Servant.

To

To the KING.

Hague, Nov. 1ſt. S. N 1675.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

SInce the Prince's Return I have had two large Diſcourſes with his Highneſs, and ſhall give your Majeſty only the ſumm of what paſs'd, not troubling you with the length of many Circumſtances. The Prince received the Aſſurance your Majeſty was pleaſed to give Him in ſome Lines of your own hand, with very great Senſe of ſo much Kindneſs? which He ſaid He had all the Reaſon that could be to believe from thoſe Expreſſions, and would ever deſerve them the beſt he was able.

Upon the Subject of the Peace, he was at my firſt Audience, dryer and more careleſs than I ever found him laſt Winter, or Spring. He ſaid, it was out of his Head at preſent: That we ſhould find the *Spaniards* much ſtiffer than ſix Months ago: That *Montecuculi*'s Deſire of going to *Vienna* had hindred his taking up Winter Quarters in *Alſatia*; and ſome Difference between himſelf and the *Spaniards* had ſpoil'd the Effect of this Campaign, without which it

it might have gone far towards a reaſonable Peace. That he ſaw the only way of making the War in *Flanders*, would be with two ſeperate Armies, which might be compaſs'd next Campaign. And that if the Forces of *Lunenburg* and *Munſter* could clear *Bremen* of the *Swedes* this Winter, he believed *France* might have their Hands full next Spring.

All his Diſcourſes being of this kind, I thought not fit to purſue them far the firſt time: But yeſterday at a ſecond Audience I reſolved to bring it to ſome Point; and deſired his Highneſs to tell me, not what he thought of *Spain* or the Empire, but upon what Terms he himſelf would be content to ſee the Peace made, and to fall into a Concert with your Majeſty for effecting it; which I knew you would expect ſome knowledge of by this Poſt. He ſaid, at firſt, it was a hard Queſtion, and that he would think of it: But when I preſs'd him hard, he ſaid at laſt, He found the *Spaniards* ſo difficult upon *Aire* and St. *Omer*, which he had firſt thought of upon an Exchange; that for his part he would be content with the quitting of *Burgundy*, if the *French* would give two Towns more in *Flanders* than thoſe Four Your Majeſty propoſed; that is,

Tour-

Tournay and *Douay*; becauſe he believed *France* would make more difficulty of *Liſle*. And ſince Your Majeſty firſt made your Scheme, the *Swedes* had loſt ſo much, that this, he thought, might very well be given in their Conſideration. After much Reply and Argument, all I could clear, by this Diſcourſe, conſiſted in theſe Two Points: That the Prince does not think fit the Peace ſhould be ſtopp'd by Pretences of the Princes of the Empire to retain their preſent Conqueſts upon *Sweden*; and that he will be content to yield the Point of *Burgundy*, if the Reſtitution of Places in *Flanders* may be enlarged as an Equivalent to it; and for the reſt, the Terms of *Aix la Chapelle*: So that between your Majeſty's Thoughts, and thoſe of his Highneſs, There will be the Difference only of a Town or two more or leſs: By which Your Majeſty will be able to judge in what Compaſs this Matter will turn when it comes to a Treaty.

I am ſenſible of having given Your Majeſty too many and too long Troubles of this Kind, and will not therefore

fore lengthen this beyond the Profeſſions of that conſtant and ſincere Devotion, wherewith I am and ſhall ever be,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's Moſt

Loyal and Moſt

Obedient Subject,

and Servant.

To

To Sir *John Temple.*

Hague, Decem. 12. S. N. 1675.

SIR,

I Have ſeldom troubled you ſince my laſt Return out of *England*, leaving it to my Siſter to entertain you with any thing that is Domeſtick, and to the Paper that is uſually ſent you, to inform you of common Occurrences: And little of Negotiation having lately paſſed here farther than the Formal Progreſs of the King's Mediation, in propoſing, and at length fixing thePlace of Treaty to be at *Nimeguen*, which you deſire to know the Reaſons of.

I propoſed this Town to the King, and His Majeſty to the Parties, not as a Matter of Choice, but almoſt of Neceſſity; for the Emperor would not ſend his Ambaſſadors to any in the *French* Territories or Conqueſts; and the *French* would not ſend theirs to any in the Juriſdiction of theConfederates; ſo that we fell at firſt here into the Thoughts of *Bazil* or *Hamburg*, but many Inconveniencies were found in both; and *France* upon the hopes of falling into particular Meaſures or Treaties with ſome of

of the Confederates, was content this laſt Year with any Difficulties that might keep off a general Congreſs, which was likely to unite their Intereſts rather than ſeperate them. And the Confederates on the other ſide upon the Confidence of their great Numbers and Forces, had a mind to ſee the Events of the Two laſt Campaigns, before they fell into any ſerious Thoughts of either Peace or Treaty: And ſo his Majeſty's Offers of Mediation have continued now a Year and a half without any Effect, farther, than being at length accepted by all the Parties.

The ill ſucceſs of the *French* Arms in the unvaluable Loſs of *Monſieur Turenne*; the Defeat of *Monſieur Crequi*; the taking of *Treves*, and the ill Condition of the *Swediſh* Affairs; but moſt of all, the ſtanch Reſolutions of the Confederates to avoid all Separate Treaties; have, I ſuppoſe, inclin'd *France* to ſet on foot the general one, by the Offer they made of ſending their Ambaſſadors to any Town in four of the Provinces belonging to the States; which gave ſome Eaſe in that firſt Pace of propoſing a Place for the Congreſs, which might be generally accepted.

Yet the Confederates were not without their Difficulties upon this Point. They ſuſpected

ſuſpected the Intentions of the *French* in this Overture it ſelf, as a piece of Compliment and Cajolery to this State; whoſe Diſpoſitions towards the Peace they knew to be different from thoſe of all the other Confederates: They apprehended very real Effects upon the Iſſue of it, by the Practices that might be carried on in theſe Provinces by the *French* Ambaſſadors and their Inſtruments, in ſuch a Concourſe of Strangers as a general Treaty was like to draw into them. Upon this Ground the *Imperial* and *Spaniſh* have violently oppoſed the accepting this Offer from *France*, and would have drawn the Treaty to *Francfort*, *Cologn*, *Baſil* or *Hamburg*, rather than into any of theſe Provinces.

The Prince of *Orange* himſelf, and the Penſioner here, with others of the States had ſo much of Jealouſy in the Matter, that they would rather have choſen the Treaty in another Country, and would by no means hear of either *Utrecht* or *Breda*, in regard of their Vicinity to the Heart of this Province, where the Pulſe beats higher towards a Peace, upon the Intereſts of Trade, than in any of the reſt. But all of them were ſenſible that it would not be borne by the People here to refuſe this Offer of *France*, and thereby reject the Treaty on this ſide, which ſeemed by

it

it to have been ſo much advanced on the other.

From theſe Reaſons we fell into the thoughts of ſome Town in *Gelderland*, and the moſt remote from hence, as the eaſieſt to be accepted by the Confederate Miniſters; which fixed the Propoſition at length upon *Nimeguen*: Tho' indeed the very Scituation of it, as a Center between *Spain* and *Sweden*, the Eaſtern Parts of the Empire, and *England* (which are all to have parts in the Treaty) made an Appearance of ſome Convenience as well as Neceſſity in the Choice.

You will have known from *England* ſooner than from hence, that I am deſigned by the King for one of his Ambaſſadors in this Mediation: And I begin accordingly to turn my Thoughts and Affairs towards that Remove; which, as to the Air, being much dryer than this, I do not diſlike. As to the Buſineſs, I expect an Encreaſe of Trouble and Expence, as well as Honour; I remove my whole Family, put off my Houſe here, and have fixed already upon one at *Nimeguen*; for which, with Stables and Out-Houſes neceſſary to it, I am like to pay a Thouſand Pounds a year; which is but a part of thoſe Exactions like to be practiſed there upon this Occaſion, and which cannot be remedy'd by this State; where

where the Magiſtrates of each Town have a Juriſdiction uncontrolable by the States themſelves, either General, or Provincial, and are like themſelves at *Nimeguen*, to give us no Remedy in this Affair which they are all concerned in.

What Proſpect there is of a Peace like to reſult from this Congreſs, upon what Terms, or what Time, is very difficult to tell you, the Delays of it muſt be ſuch as the Parties pleaſe, it being in the power of either to raiſe them upon the formal or ſubſtantial Parts of the Negotiation. The Conditions to be firſt propoſed will be diſtant enough, becauſe they are like to come from all the ſeveral Parties; tho' ſome of them would be glad his Majeſty, as Mediator, would draw the firſt Scheme, according to what he ſhall eſteem moſt juſt and agreeable to the common Intereſts of *Chriſtendom*: And they doubt not but whatever Peace his Majeſty ſhould propoſe, he may do it in ſuch manner as to make it eaſily accepted by all Parties, and take upon him to be the Arbiter as well as Mediator in this great Affair. But for ought I ſee, our Councils are fixed to act no ſuch Part; ſo as the Mediation will not at all lead, but follow the Diſpoſitions of the Parties, as theſe I ſuppoſe will do the Events of the War, ſince no

Suſpenſion of Arms is like to be agreed during the Treaty.

The preſent Diſpoſitions, I think, are theſe: *France* will pretend to all their Conqueſts both of the laſt War and this; but would, at preſent, be content, I believe, to part with a Town or two in *Flanders*, ſo as they may keep *Burgundy*; and will make no Difficulty to leave the Empire and this State as they were when the War began (after all this Expence of Blood and Treaſure.) *Spain* ſeeing ſo many Confederates united in their Quarrel, and engaged to make no Peace without their Conſent, reckons upon no leſs than the *Pyrenean* Treaty, and would keep off this till ſome Succeſſes of the Confederates Arms may make way for ſuch Conditions. The Emperor finding this War has almoſt united the Empire in the Intereſts of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and drawing Money from theſe States as well as from *Spain*, is very unwilling to loſe the Conjuncture, and therefore would be glad to have the War go on; and ſo will not only inſiſt upon the Reſtitution of *Lorain* and *Philipsburg*, but Reparation of Damages to the Princes of the *Rhine*. Theſe States ask nothing for themſelves but the Reſtitution of *Maſtricht*, and of Commerce as it was before the War; but think it neceſſary, for their own Safety, that a good

Frontier

Frontier be left the *Spaniards* in *Flanders*, and ſo will endeavour to have five or ſix good Towns reſtored there, in exchange for *Burgundy*, which they are leſs concerned in. But all the Allies agree in repoſſeſſing the Duke of *Lorain*; which is a Matter that *France* is moſt reſerved in, as having no pretence either of Right or Conqueſt there, and yet juſtly eſteeming it a Matter of more Importance to them than all the reſt; conſidering not only the Force and Riches of that Province, but the Situation of it, and the abſolute Engagements of the preſent Duke to the Intereſts and Perſon of the Emperor. If theſe Points could be agreed, nothing that concerns the new Quarrels in the *North* would, I believe, hinder the Peace: But upon the preſent State of the War and the Mediation, I do not ſee any ſudden Iſſue very likely by a Treaty: And how the Events of another Campaign may raiſe the Hopes or Fears, and thereby change the Intereſts and Pretenſions of the ſeveral Parties, no man can conjecture. In the mean time I would not leave this Place, nor end the Year without giving you this general Scheme, by which you may the eaſier judge of the Motions you ſhall hear of in the Courſe of the Treaty or the War; ſince you are pleaſed to ſay it will be a ſatisfaction to you. I know it will be ſo, to

hear we are all well at preſent here. My Wife intends to make a Step into *England* about the time I ſhall go to *Nimeguen*, but to return to me there within a Month or two. My Son, I hope, entertains you often from *London*, as my Siſter does from hence, which allows me to trouble you leſs.

I am ever,

SIR,

Your moſt Obedient

Son and moſt

Humble Servant

To

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Jan. 17. S. N. 1676.

My LORD,

I Receiv'd the Honour of a Letter from your Lordſhip the beginning of this Week by Mr. *Widdrington*, who ſhall not fail of any Services I can do him here, as I have already aſſured him, and deſired him to let me know all Occaſions wherein he thinks he can make uſe of me. I had the Opportunity of bringing him to his Highneſs, who dined that day with me; and to give him the better Entrance, I ſhewed the Prince your Lordſhip's Letter. He read it, and ſmiled at the latter part of it; but when he had done, he came to me, and deſired me to remember his Service to you, and aſſure you how much he valued your Recommendation; and that Mr. *Widdrington* ſhould find it by all the Encouragement he could give him. After a little Stop, he ſaid: And for the latter part of his Letter, pray tell him, they are very much miſtaken; and then pauſing a little, as if he were concerned at it; he ſaid; God! I never ſaid any thing to *Sylvius*, that I was

not content my Coachman ſhould know: I laughed, and asked him, And would you have me tell my Lord Treaſurer ſo too? He turned about, and ſaid reſolutely, Yes, do. I entered no farther into this Matter, nor ſhould have ſaid this, but that the Prince bid me; and ſeemed concerned that what your Lordſhip writ upon that Subject ſhould be believed there. The uſe I made of it was a little more important; which was, to go ſince to the Prince and tell him, That being now upon my Journey to *Nimeguen*, and having been here a Year and half, his Majeſty would have Reaſon to think he had been very ill ſerved, if in all this time I were not able to give him a right and full Account of his Highneſs's Intentions in what his Majeſty concerned himſelf, but that the King ſhould be ſtill in pain to know them, and caſting about by what hand to find them out. The Prince ſaid, He could not ſay more to me than he had ſaid to me already, and written to the King upon all Occaſions; and that he could not tell what more we would know of him, nor why Sir *Gabriel Sylvius* was ſent over, when the Compliment might either have been ſpared, or made by Mr. *Skelton* as he paſſed by. However, I endeavoured to draw what new Light I could from his Highneſs; and comparing

all

all he had ſaid, with all that I had gather-ed from the Current of his former Diſcour-ſes to me, upon any Points wherein I thought his Majeſty was concerned to know the bottom of all he means; I thought fit to ſet it down in Writing; and that I might know whether I had in every thing rightly apprehended him or no, I ſhewed it him, and ſend your Lordſhip the Paper incloſed, and what his Highneſs ſaid to me upon reading of it.

I deſire your Lordſhip will pleaſe to ſhew it to his Majeſty, with this Account of the Occaſion of it, which was given me by your Lordſhip: And for my own part, I believe this is what his Majeſty muſt truſt to as to the Prince's Intentions, and that no Talk or Reaſoning will alter them, nor any thing elſe beſides ſome new and great Accidents or Changes in the Af-fairs of the Parties now in War.

However, this need not diſcourage his Majeſty from endeavouring to know more from his Highneſs by any other hand; tho' he ſaid lately to me upon ſome of theſe Diſcourſes, that whenever he could ſay any thing wherewith he thought his Majeſty would be more pleaſed, he would be ſure to do it by me. For the Truth of all this; if his Majeſty deſires to be further ſatisfy'd in it, I am very well content he ſhould ſend

this Letter, and the incloſed Paper to the Prince, which will be the infallible way of knowing it, and without engaging me further in the ill Will or Expoſtulation of Sir *Gabriel Sylvius*, or his Patrons; though their meaning to me, in the way they deſigned his coming over hither, and endeavoured it for three Months together, has been but too well diſcovered to me, as it has been, I am ſure, very little deſerved. He is not yet come, tho' I have expected him every Day this Fortnight paſt; and reſolve upon his Arrival, to carry my ſelf to him in all Points as becomes me to a Perſon ſent by his Majeſty hither, and give him any Aſſiſtances he deſires me.

There is a Point of Inſtruction I received laſt Poſt from Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*, which I would likewiſe be glad his Majeſty would pleaſe once more to reflect upon, as a thing that may poſſibly bring an ill Incident upon the Courſe of the Treaty. It is, That his Majeſty's Ambaſſadors ſhould expect the firſt Viſit from all others, even that arrive after them at the place of Congreſs: And this is grounded upon an Inſtruction to thoſe at *Cologne*, to give it in the ſame Caſe to the *Swedes* as then Mediators, and upon their having actually done ſo. Now the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors on the contrary arriving after the *Swedes* at *Cologne*,

received

received, without any difficulty, the firſt Viſit from them, and thought all others had done ſo too : And it appears by our Ambaſſadors Journal, that tho' they did it, yet the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors intended it firſt to them, and had accordingly ſent a Gentleman to ask an hour of them. Now there is a great deal of difference between what is voluntarily given, and what is of due demanded. And tho' the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors are reſolved to do it, yet if thoſe of the Emperor, or the other greater Crowns ſhould make a Difficulty, as I foreſee they may, the Congreſs might be *accroché de Ceremonies* between the Parties and Mediators, whoſe Buſineſs it is to prevent or compoſe them between the Parties themſelves. Beſides, this State has reſolved to look upon *Nimeguen* not only as a Neutral Town during the Treaty, but in a manner to put it into the Hands of the Mediators, by ordering both the Commander and Magiſtrates to take Orders from them upon all Emergencies : So that it ſeems to belong to them, not only as Mediators, but as Perſons at home, to do the honour of the Congreſs to thoſe that arrive after them.

It will be a troubleſome thing, I doubt, to his Majeſty to give very particular Inſtructions upon every Point of Ceremony that may ariſe : And therefore, when he reſolves

reſolves upon this, I know not whether the eaſieſt will not be, to ſend us one general Inſtruction, commanding us to avoid all, as far as we can, both between the Mediators and Parties, and between the Parties themſelves; and when that cannot be, to leave it to us upon the Place, to act in point of Ceremony by conſent, as we judge beſt for his Majeſty's honour, his Ends in the Mediation, and the Practice of other Princes but particularly that of the Treaty at *Cologne*; of which Sir *Lionel Jenkins* is ſo well informed.

I humbly beg your Lordſhip's Pardon for ſo long a Trouble, which I ſhould not have given you, had not I thought it neceſſary for his Majeſty's Service: And you will forgive me the eaſier, becauſe I am ſo much what I ſhall be ever,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's

moſt Faithful, &c.

The

The Paper Incloſed.

Hague, Jan. 17. S. N. 1676.

AS far as I can any way diſcover of his Highneſs's Intentions, they are theſe.

Firſt, as to his Majeſty, to live always not only with the Duty and Reſpect that becomes him, but with all the Kindneſs and neareſt Conjunction of Intereſts that can be, while his Majeſty pleaſes to continue the Deſires of it; and that Affection which he has profeſs'd to him by ſo many Letters, and ſo many ſeveral Hands, and now lately by Sir *Lionel Jenkins*.

As to the Peace; the Prince ſays to me upon all Occaſions, that he for his own part, would be very glad to make it upon any Terms his Majeſty ſhould think fit; if his Majeſty can prevail with *Spain* to conſent to it, which his Highneſs doubts, he himſelf ſhall not be able to do; and he finds this State ſo far obliged to that Crown, both by their Treaties, and for their Aſſiſtance in their late Extremities; that he does not ſee how they can break from them, or if they ſhould, who would afterwards truſt them.

That

That the greateſt Teſtimony his Majeſty can give his Highneſs of his real Kindneſs and good Will to him, would be to bring him out of this War with ſome ſafety to his Honour, and to his Country; and thereby to ſhew the World, that as none of his Majeſty's Allies were nearer to him in Blood, nor truer to him in Affection; ſo he conſidered none of their Intereſts more than his in this preſent Quarrel.

That the beſt way to this that his Highneſs can think of, in reſpect of the Honour of *France*, and his Majeſty's particular Advantage, as well as the Certainty of a ſudden Peace, was that which had ſome time ſince been mentioned to his Majeſty, of effecting a Match between the King of *Spain* and *Madamoiſelle*, with the Conqueſts ſince 1666 for her Dowry; and in this Caſe; his Highneſs would undertake for ſuch a Preſent, as the Penſioner then ſpoke of to his Majeſty, and doubted not to perſuade *Spain* to do as much. But if this could not be, then he ſaw no way left, but for his Majeſty to diſpoſe *France* to reſtore thoſe Towns in *Flanders*, which were neceſſary to leave the *Spaniſh* Netherlands in a Condition of Defence: Upon which his Highneſs, and this State would uſe their utmoſt Endeavours

vours to incline *Spain* to a Peace. And his Highneſs ſays upon all Occaſions, that he is ſure, his Majeſty may do either of theſe whenever he pleaſes, and without any Difficulty at all; and he believes without going againſt any Intereſts of his own or his Kingdoms.

That if neither of theſe can be compaſs'd, and *France* reſolve to have no Peace, but upon the Foot of Affairs as they ſtand at preſent; and his Majeſty will only conſider their Poſſeſſion, and not the Juſtice of it, or Intereſt of *Chriſtendom* in it. His Highneſs ſays very plainly, that though he wiſhes his Majeſty all the Glory that can be, by the preſent Mediation; and this State will contribute all they can towards it: Yet for his own part, he ſees no Remedy but that they muſt try the Fortune of another Campaigne; in which he hopes ſo to behave himſelf, as that his Majeſty ſhall not be aſhamed of him; nor at all leſſen the Kindneſs or good Opinion, he has hitherto expreſſed for him.

Having read this Paper to his Highneſs, and asked whether I had apprehended him right: He ſaid, ſo right, that if you had been within him, you could not have done

done it better: And if I were the beſt *Catholick* in the World, and you were my Confeſſor, I could ſay no more to you.

I asked: But can you ſay no more to any other Man? His Highneſs anſwered; I would not ſay ſo much to any other, but can ſay more to no Man.

To

To My Lord *Treaſurer.*

Hague Jan. 24. S. N. 1676.

My LORD,

IN my laſt of this day ſennight I endeavoured to give your Lordſhip a full Account of the Prince of *Orange*'s Intentions, which his Majeſty was it ſeems, ſtill in pain to know. Since that time Mr. *Skelton* arriving here, and telling me (as well as the Prince) ſeveral Things the King had ſaid to him upon that Subject; has given me Occaſion to add ſomething upon it, to the end his Majeſty may in all Points know the very Bottom of it, and take his Meaſures accordingly: For as far as I underſtand, all Matters are carryed on according to the Perſonal Diſpoſitions of the Men that are at the Head of them; and the Prince is a Man as difficult as ever I knew, to be Talk'd either into or out of any thing wherein he thinks his Honour or Intereſt concerned.

Mr. *Skelton* told the Prince, that his Majeſty knew very well there were ſome *little People* about his Highneſs, that endeavoured to perſuade him, the King had not that Kindneſs for him he profeſs'd;

at

at leaſt, not ſo mnch as for *France*: But I aſſured him of the contrary; and that his Majeſty would ſhew it by the Meaſures he intended to take with him after the Peace was made. Upon the firſt Words the Prince anſwered, that he deſired nothing in the World more, than that the King would have the Kindneſs for him he profeſs'd. Mr. *Skelton*, I remember, made ſome Reflexions to me; and thought it ſounded as if the Prince doubted it. And I remember Sir *Lionel Jenkins* upon his ſeveral Diſcourſes with his Highneſs ſaid, he doubted the Prince had ſomething lay at Heart. I will firſt tell your Lordſhip, that now *Moulin* is no longer about the Prince, I do not ſuſpect any others I ſee near him, of the Deſign to ſow ill Impreſſions of his Majeſty's Intentions; nor do I really think he has any further than might be gathered from his Diſcourſes in my laſt Paper: That is, he believes his Majeſty will not for his ſake, break any of the Meaſures he has of late Years taken with *France*. He thinks ſome Partiality is ſhewed in the Buſineſs of the *Levies*; and is troubled that his Majeſty will not bring him out of this War with ſome Honour, which he believes may be done (as he often ſays) with a Word ſpeaking: And that as Affairs ſtand in *Chriſtendom*, *France* cannot

cannot refuſe any thing his Majſtye ſhall deſire. And from theſe Impreſſions he ſays upon Diſcourſe, that Effects only, and not any Words or Expreſſions can remove him.

Mr. *Skelton* told me (and I ſuppoſe the Prince too) that his Majeſty would undertake for any Conditions upon a Peace that the Prince ſhould propoſe of Advantage to himſelf. I have often talked with his Highneſs upon that Subject; and on Occaſion of Monſieur *Ruvigni*'s propoſing his Maſter buying all his Lands in the County of *Burgundy*, even at a Value unreaſonable; I have ever found him ſo cold upon this Subject, that in ſhort nothing will be faſtned on him. And I remember at laſt he told me, that he knew to another Man it would look like Affectation, and therefore he would not ſay it; but to me that knew him ſo well, he would tell me very truly, that though he underſtood very well the Value of his Lands in *Burgundy*; yet upon the Peace he would be content to loſe them all to get one good Town more for the *Spaniards* in *Flanders*.

Becauſe I mentioned in my laſt Paper, an Offer that had been made his Majeſty by the Penſioner, upon a Match betwee[n]

the King of *Spain* and *Madamoiſelle* with the *French* Conqueſts for her Dowry; which was a Thing the Prince's Head has run mightily upon, as in his Majeſty's Power to bring about; though I do not think it at all likely, or that the reſtoring even of the *Suedes* to all they have loſt, could either diſpoſe *France* to it, or engage his Majeſty in an earneſt Purſuit of it. Yet becauſe I doubt your Lordſhip has not heard any thing before of that Matter, when it went from hence in ſome of my Letters about a Year ago: I thought it was fit to explain to you ſo far only as to let you know, the Summ offered by the Penſioner to be paid privately upon it into his Majeſty's Treaſure, was two hundred thouſand Pounds; and the like Summ to be endeavoured by them from the *Spaniards*; which the Prince as I ſaid in my laſt, told me he did not doubt of. This is the utmoſt of what I can ſay upon this Subject, but I ſhall be glad if any other Perſons can find out more of the Prince's Intentions, or any thing that his Majeſty will be better pleaſed with. But I doubt they are theſe at preſent, and that they will not change by other means than

ſome

ſome new Accidents or Revolutions in the farther Courſe of Time or War.

I ask your Lordſhip's Pardon for this farther Trouble, and ſhall not increaſe it beyond the Aſſurances of my being ever,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's moſt

Faithful and moſt

Humble Servant.

To the KING.

Hague, March 3. S. N. 1676.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

UPon an Occaſion given me by my Lord Treaſurer, in a Clauſe of a late Letter mentioning a Diſpatch of Sir *Gabriel Sylvius* hither; I thought fit by his Lordſhip's Hand, to give your Majeſty the fulleſt Account I could of the Prince of *Orange*'s Diſpoſitions and Intentions in this great Conjuncture.

I have ſince found by Diſcourſe with Sir *Gabriel Sylvius*, that your Majeſty thought his Highneſs might be made more ſenſible of the Uſage he has received, and ought to expect from *Spain* in this Confederacy. I did not forget among other Things, wherein your Majeſty inſtructed me, to ſay a great deal to him upon this Subject. He ſtill anſwered me, that he knew more of this than I could tell him: That it had gone ſo far in what concerned his Perſonal Intereſts with that Crown, as to make him tell the Duke *de Villa Hermoſa* laſt Campaign; that he took this manner of Treatment from *Spain* as a great

great Honour to him. For he was very ſure, at a Time wherein the leaſt Step he ſhould make awry, was of ſo great Moment to that Crown; they would not uſe him ſo, if they did not think him a Man of too much Honour to prefer his own Reſentments before the publick Intereſts he was engaged in. And he added upon it, that they knew him, for he ſhould not do it.

Upon another Diſcourſe of the Houſe of *Auſtria*'s depending ſo much upon his Highneſs's own Diſpoſitions, rather than thoſe of the States, in the purſuit of their preſent Alliances. His Highneſs told me a Particular I had never heard before; which was; That one Part of his Oath as Statholder was, to take the Care of keeping the States to the Obſervation of their Treaties; which he was reſolved to do to the beſt of his Power.

Laſt *Friday*, his Highneſs coming to me upon an Illneſs that kept me in my Chamber, told me all that had paſſed between him and Sir *Gabriel Sylvius*, upon the Subject of the Peace; which all ended in this: That your Majeſty deſired a good Peace, and that his Highneſs deſired nothing more than a good one, but not an ill one; which on the contrary he would hinder if he could. That all the Queſtion was,

what was a good Peace: And upon that, had desired of Sir *Gabriel Sylvius*, as he had before done of me; to know your Majesty's Mind, and upon what Terms you desired or thought fit the Peace should be made: That Sir *Gabriel Sylvius* had answered; You had given him no Commission to give that Scheme, and would reserve your self till the Treaty. Upon which his Highness had replyed, that then for his part, he would neither help nor hinder the Peace: That it would be made when one of the Parties were beaten out of the Field, but not till then; unless your Majesty would declare to all the Parties upon what Terms you thought fit, and desired to make it; and in this Case it would be done in a Week.

I tell your Majesty this, that for your better Light you may compare it with the Notes you receive upon this Matter, from Sir *Gabriel Sylvius*; and thereby know whether the Prince's Discourses are different to different Persons; which I believe they are not, however they may be represented. And I am confident, no reasonings can remove him from those Intentions I have always given your Majesty an Account of; unless the future Events of the War, or new Revolutions in the Confederacy should inspire him with new

new Thoughts, or involve him in new Neceſſities.

The Prince in his laſt Viſit to me, told me, he believed one great Part of Sir *Gabriel Sylvius* his Errand hither, was come out t'other day. That he had fallen into Diſcourſe of the ill Poſture of the *Engliſh* Forces here, the Neceſſity of a Perſon of Quality being at the Head of them; and my Lord *Oſſory*'s Deſire to ſerve him in that Charge. That upon the Prince's agreeing in thoſe Points, Sir *Gabriel Sylvius* pulled out a Letter and ſaid, 'twas one he had thought of writing to my Lord *Arlington* upon that Subject; if the Prince approved it. That he read it to his Highneſs, who ſaid he thought it was well; and that he might ſend it if he would. The Prince told me, he obſerved the Paper was ſo worn in the Creaſes, that he knew it was a Thing brought out of *England*; and not written here as Sir *Gabriel Sylvius* pretended; and believed it was not only to go to my Lord *Arlington*, but that it came from him too. That he believed, it was not a Thing your Majeſty knew of; and obſerved a Clauſe in it, which he thought was put in on purpoſe to ingratiate it to your Majeſty, though he had taken no notice of it to Sir *Gabriel Sylvius*.

I took this Occaſion to tell his Highneſs; that your Majeſty had talk'd with me when I was laſt in *England*, of that Point; as of a Thing you would be glad of, and that might be provided for by private Concert between your Majeſty and his Highneſs, upon the Concluſion of a Treaty you intended of a nearer Alliance with this State, immediately after the general Peace; which his Highneſs I find, thinks will be the proper Time for it; as I remember your Majeſty thought too when you Diſcourſed it to me. I did not find any Reflections or Diſpoſitions in the Prince, different from what your Majeſty has reaſon to deſire them upon this Occaſion; and doubt not of ſeeing all other Meaſures eaſy between you, in caſe your Majeſty can have ſo much Credit with *France*; or ſo much good Fortune, as to help him out of this War with ſome Honour and Satisfaction.

Your Majeſty will pleaſe to uſe this Matter as a piece of Confidence from the Prince to me; though I thought it fit to be told your Majeſty, becauſe I remember how averſe you were laſt Summer from ſuffering my Lord *Oſſory* to come over during the War; and I thought you might be engaged in what you had no mind to, upon the Prince's ſeeming to preſs you

with

with a Circumſtance of a new Strain; or elſe be troubled to refuſe what he ſeemed ſo much to deſire. Whereas the Thing has riſen wholly in *England*, and not here as will be repreſented to you; ſo that the Matter is in your Majeſty to do juſt as you pleaſe, without any Danger of diſobliging the Prince, who is but paſſive in it. And for that Circumſtance which I ſuppoſe, intended to value ſomebody or other, by the Shew of extraordinary Confidence, and to introduce ſome more private Negotiations; 'tis a Fruit that I doubt, is not yet in Seaſon to be handled, nor will be before the general Peace is made, which muſt make way for all nearer Meaſures between your Majeſty and the Prince; and I am the more of this Opinion, becauſe I remember it was abſolutely your Majeſty's when I left you.

I humbly beg your Majeſty's Pardon for this Trouble, and your Acceptance of that true and paſſionate Devotion, wherewith I am and ſhall be ever,

Your Majeſty's moſt Loyal, and

moſt Obedient Subject and Servant.

To

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague, March 24. S. N. 1676.

SIR,

SInce my laſt of the 20*th* I have none from you, tho' a Pacquet be come in: And I expected from your laſt of the 3*d*, to know his Majeſty's Mind in your next, concerning my formal propoſing the late Expedient after the Knowledge given you of the firſt Reception it met with here. I have been ſince endeavouring all I could to make better way for it, in caſe his Majeſty continue his pleaſure of having it done notwithſtanding the former Diſcouragment. I have ſince talked with ſeveral that are in the Councils here, as well as with the Penſioner upon that Subject, but can gain no Ground with any of them. After all my Reaſonings with the Penſioner, and telling him the Orders I had to make the formal Propoſition, and deſiring him to give a hand to it, as the only way left to keep up any Appearance of the Congreſs; he told me, that he could not undertake to ſay what would be the States mind, but he had very good Preſumptions from

from knowing what it had been: For tho' mine would be perhaps a more formal way of propoſing it, yet *Monſieur Van Beuninghen*'s was, as he writ them from the King's own Mouth, and thereupon was conſidered and debated by the States, and with their Allies, in the ſame manner that mine would be; and therefore he was confident it could have no other Reception. For the States, he ſaid, they would be very glad to receive it, or any other Advance towards the Treaty; but that no one Miniſter of their Allies, but had expreſs'd a diſlike to it: And the Emperor's Reſident had ſaid, That beſides his Maſter, he would engage his Head it would be refuſed by the Princes of the Empire. The Penſioner added, That beſides the Delays of new Orders, to which they all had recourſe, the Thing would be repreſented at the ſeveral Courts by the Miniſters here, who were all prejudic'd againſt it; and I might judge what was to be expected from the Impreſſions they were like to give. That it was impoſſible for the States to break from their Allies in this matter, having delay'd ſo long the Treaty at *Cologne*, upon the Point of *Lorain*, when they were in ſo much worſe Condition than now. That they had Reaſon to hope his Majeſty would prevail with *France*, in a Point wherein he had always

aſſured

aſſured *Monſieur Van Beuninghen* there ſhould be no Difficulty. He offered to ſend me ſeveral of *Monſieur Van Beuninghen's* Letters with that Aſſurance; but I told him, I believed eaſily his Majeſty did not foreſee it, and was ſurprized with it when it came firſt from *France*, and ſorry to meet with it. But the Caſe was now to find out an Expedient, ſince *France* was unmovable upon the Offices his Majeſty had already performed in that Court; and that their parts were to conſider, whether the Congreſs imported them ſo far as to paſs over ſuch Forms as were of no conſequence at all to the ſubſtance of the Treaty; or whether they were content the Congreſs ſhould abſolutely break upon them. He anſwered me, that if it broke on the *French* ſide, and upon a Point ſo unjuſt, they muſt have Patience: That he ſaw very well *France* would force this State upon the Reſolutions of continuing the War, which was both againſt their Mind and againſt their Intereſt; but if it muſt be ſo, and *Spain* would find a way to relieve them of the Subſidies they paid abroad; *Nous ferons bien voir á la France, que nous ne ſommes pas encore hors d' haleine.* I tell you his Words, becauſe they are of a Strain that I had never heard from the Penſioner ſince my coming over; all his Diſcourſes having uſed to carry a Bent to the

Peace,

Peace, and an Opinion of its neceſſity. But upon this Occaſion, and ſome heat it gave him, he told me, They had ordered *Monſieur Hemskerke* to make the Propoſition at *Madrid*, and he doubted not but it would be accepted, if ever the Gallions arrived, or they could be perſuaded in *Spain* to cut off all Penſions for three Years.

I gave you a hint ſome time ſince of this being upon the Anvil among the Confederates, but did not imagine it would work up very faſt; becauſe I foreſaw it muſt draw on a Guaranty of the laſt Conqueſts upon *Sweden*: But that will not need, if *Spain* ſhould be able to pay the whole preſent Subſidies; and I perceive this State hath now a Proſpect of other Meaſures with *Sweden* than they thought of at that time.

I have reaſoned upon this Expedient likewiſe with the Marqueſs *de Grana* upon his Return from *Bruſſels*. He adds one Thing more to what I hear againſt it from the reſt; which is, by asking how his Maſter the Emperor can leave ſuch a Diſcontent at Heart, of a Prince to whom he hath already intruſted a great part of his Forces, and is reſolved to commit the Charge of his whole Army this Year, in Caſe any Difficulties ſhould happen in Count *Montecuculi*'s coming to command it. I believe his Journey hither hath had ef-

ſect upon the hopes of the Confederates, by the Aſſurance he hath given them, that his Maſter's Army ſhall be in the Field, and encamped before the 20*th* of *April*, and ſtronger than in any of the laſt Campaigns. What I believed of the Conference among the Confederates held at the time of my writing laſt, proved true: They agreed upon ſending their Paſſports and a Ship of this State for the *Swediſh* Plenipotentiaries; tho' the *Daniſh* Miniſters was brought to it *á reculons*. But I find here that *Monſieur Romph*, Envoy of this State at *Stockholm*, hath not only aſſured them, that they will ſend their Plenipotentiaries away to *Nimeguen* upon the Arrival of the Ship; but that they will come inſtructed to do all they can to procure a ſudden general Peace; and if that cannot be compoſed, to make a particular Peace for that Crown. And he writes them word, That a Reſolution of the Senate is already paſs'd to this Purpoſe. Though this whole Matter paſſeth between the States and *Monſieur Sylvercroon* without any mention of *France*; and he gives it to me a very good Turn, of only haſtning the Delays neceſſary to ſo long a Journey; and pretending to believe theſe Difficulties raiſed by *France*, upon

upon the Matter of Paſſports, may poſſibly have been occaſioned, becauſe they would not come to the Congreſs before the *Swedes* could be there: Yet I ſee plainly, the States reckon upon the *Swedes* coming to *Nimeguen*, though the Difficulties with *France* ſhould continue; and conſequently, that there will be a Congreſs this Summer, whether the *French* Plenipotentiaries come to it or no. And this I thought fit his Majeſty ſhould have early Advice of, that he might order his Meaſures accordingly, in caſe it ſhould happen, and conſider how far the Progreſs of ſuch a Matter ſhould be attended and obſerved by his Miniſters; and whether with any Endeavours, either publick or private, either of aſſiſting or oppoſing it.

The Emperor's Miniſter here hath in the late Conferences among the Confederates, made great Complaints of Mr. *Skelton* having received at *Norimberg*, the Orders ſent him to make a Halt in his Journey, had, notwithſtanding, gone afterwards from thence to *Ratisbonne*, and reſolved to make his ſtay there; and had fallen into

into many ſecret Conferences with a *French* Gentleman, who is a Miniſter of the Duke of *Bavaria* there. That by it he had raiſed great Reflections among the Miniſters of the Emperor and the Confederate Princes, eſpecially upon obſervation that many of theſe Meetings had been in the Night, or elſe at Places out of Town, that ſeemed choſen expreſsly for the ſecrecy of them. The States anſwered at the Conference, That they did not think theſe Circumſtances of weight to be taken notice of to his Majeſty, as *Monſieur Campricht* deſired. However, both the Prince and Penſioner told me of it, though without pretending to make any Complaints: And I told them my own Belief, that there could be nothing of this kind by any Commiſſion of his Majeſty's; and that what was, might be only Perſonal Acquaintance and Converſation between themſelves.

Mr. *Meredith* told you laſt Week of eight Ships of War gone out of the *Texel* without any Noiſe of their Preparation or Diſpatch. I hear certainly they are Twelve or Fourteen, and commanded by one *Bringiſt* (as I remember his Name is) who is Vice-Admiral of *Frizland*, and a very Bold Man. I am aſſured of a Thou-

ſand

ſand Land-men aboard; but the whole hath been carried on by the Expence of the Admiralty, without any Supply from the State; and with ſuch ſecrecy, that I cannot poſſibly learn upon what Deſign.

I am,

SIR,

Yours &c.

To the KING.

Hague, March 27. S. N. 1676.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty.

I received by the laſt Letter from Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* the knowledge of a Juſtification made him by a *Daniſh* Envoy at *London*, of the *Daniſh* Envoy's Carriage and Expreſſions here, upon the Propoſal of Your Majeſty's late Expedient tranſmitted by *Monſieur Van Beuninghen*. Beſides what I have written upon this Subject to Mr. Secretary; I could not but take notice of a Proceeding ſo diſingenuous as to let your Majeſty know, that the Prince telling me how that Propoſal was received by the Allies, added, that one of them ſaid among other warm things; *Qu'on ne pretendoit pas ſe metre ſous la tutele du Roy d' Angleterre.* His Highneſs ſaid, he would not tell me who it was, and I reply'd, he needed not, for I knew the Stile too well, not to be ſure it was *Monſieur Meyercroon*'s: The Prince confeſs'd it was ſo, but deſired me not to ſpeak of it: I do it now only to your Majeſty; and that your Majeſty may ſee how far you may rely upon the Diſcourſes of ſuch

ſuch Foreign Miniſters, who ſay only what they think will pleaſe, inſtead of what they know is true. If your Majeſty deſireth to make any farther uſe of this than your own Information, I will ask the Prince leave to tell it; if not, I hope your Majeſty will manage his Highneſs's Credit with his Allies, and mine with him; and that you will pleaſe to pardon this Interruption from,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt

Loyal and moſt Obedient

Subject and Servant

To Mr. Secretary *Williamſon.*

Hague, *March* 27. S. N. 1676

SIR,

BY yours of the 29*th* paſt I received Orders to propoſe his Majeſty's late Expedient formally to this State; but upon the Prince of *Orange's* Advice, I gave you notice of my deferring it till his Majeſty's Pleaſure known, after the Account I had given of its Reception here upon *Monſieur Van Beuninghen's* tranſmitting it from his Majeſty's own Mouth, and a formal Conference between the States and all their Allies upon it. By yours of *March* the 3*d*, I received the Notice of that Account being come to your hand, but was referred to the next for knowledge of his Majeſty's Mind upon it, after the producing it the *Sunday* following at the Foreign Committe. The *Tueſday's* Poſt after that brought me nothing at all from you; but the next *Friday's* Poſt being now come in, brought me yours of the 10*th* Current; which ſays not a word more to me upon this whole Matter, but that his Majeſty expected the States, and their Allies Anſwer upon the Point.

Point. I thought it my Duty immediately upon receipt of this Letter, and conſideration of the former Circumſtances, to put in the Incloſed Memorial with the Formal Propoſition of it to the States; though I had in two late ones of mine given you account both from the Prince's and Penſioner's, and ſeveral other's Diſcourſes, what ſucceſs I had reaſon to expect, and conſequently why I delay'd it till farther Orders. I know very well that the Count *d' Eſtrades* in his Ambaſſy here received twice poſitive Orders from the King his Maſter, to propoſe Things in his Name to the States, which had been grounded upon *Monſieur Van Beuninghen*'s Diſcourſes in that Court; but the Count finding that they would be refuſed here, ſuppreſſed his Orders, and ſent his Maſter Word that he had done ſo, becauſe he would not expoſe his Majeſty's Name and Honour in a Thing wherein he was ſure to be refuſed. I know very well his Conduct was both approved, and he received Thanks for it from the Moſt Chriſtian King. I confeſs mine ſhould have been the ſame upon this Occaſion, if I had not known my want of Credit to ſupport me; and that in ſuch Caſes 'tis fit for ſuch a Man only to obey, which muſt be my part; and therefore it will be yours to expect it from me, and to conſi-

der how I am inſtructed. I could not yet receive any Anſwer to my *Memorial*, becauſe they would be ſure to do nothing in it, without a Conference with their Allies, but ſhall preſs them to it with Diligence, and with Wiſhes, that I may find my ſelf deceived in the Meaſures I have taken here, or given from hence in this Matter; though I do not remember to have yet failed in thoſe I have hitherto given you, in any one Point, and ſhould be glad to be put in mind of it, if I do.

For thoſe given his Majeſty by the Foreign Miniſters about him, I think you have had ſome Experience of late how they are to be rely'd upon: And tho' they may be excuſed as proceeding from ſo good and ſo important a Deſign, as I ſuppoſe they have, of making their Court well to his Majeſty, by ſuch Advances or Compliances as have been lately among them; yet I doubt whether you have reaſon to ground upon them, ſo far in Matters where his Majeſty's Service may be concerned.

I told the Prince, that *Don Pedro de Ronquillo* had approved of his Majeſty's Expedient there; upon which his Highneſs reply'd, that it might be ſo; but he was ſure he had written to *Don Emanuel de Lyra* in a very different Style. You now tell me, that the *Daniſh* Envoy there came on purpoſe

to

to you, to juſtifie their Miniſter here upon his having been repreſented from hence to have oppoſed and argued againſt his Majeſty's Expedient; whereas he never had expreſs'd any Diſlike or Prejudice to that Matter. I deſire you will pleaſe to tell your *Daniſh* Envoy from me (at leaſt if you think fit) that I will leave that Matter to be diſputed by *Monſieur Meyercroon* with the Prince of *Orange* and the Penſioner *Fagel*; who both told me very much the contrary, and I own to have written ſo from their Mouths. And ſince he brings me into the Liſts upon this Occaſion; I do not only name my Principals, but I queſtion not to find ſo much Credit with ſome of the Miniſters of the Allies here, as to know ſome remarkable Words of *Monſieur Meyercroon*'s upon this Occaſion at the Conference, which will be very fit for his Majeſty to know, whether he pleaſes to diſcourſe them or no.

I will add but one word more upon this Subject, which is, that what Meaſures I give you of this kind, I have from the Prince's and Penſioner's Diſcourſes, in which I have not yet found my ſelf deceived, nor ever known their Opinions conteſted by the States here once ſince my coming over, in any Matter that concerned Peace or War, or any Foreign Alliances.

On the other ſide, if you doubt of my giving you other Lights at any time than they give me, I am content you ſhould ſend any Letter of mine over to them by another Hand, and know whether I have either deceived, or been deceived in my Reports from their Diſcourſes with me.

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

To

To Sir *Joseph Williamson.*

Hague, March 21st. S. N. 1676.

SIR,

IN my last Letter of the 27*th*, I gave you an Account of my having proposed his Majesty's Expedient formally to the States. But having done it after many Discouragements, in my several Discourses with the Prince, Pensioner, and other Ministers of this State as well as their Allies; and without any direct Orders from his Majesty, after he had received the Knowledge of those Discouragements: I was in some Pain to judge whether I had done well or no, till I was eased of it by yours of the 14*th*; which brought me his Majesty's positive Command to that purpose. I have yet no Answer to my *Memorial*, nor can expect it before this Post goes away; this afternoon being appointed for the Conference between the States and their Allies upon it. Yesterday was the Conference of the Commissioners with the Prince; who told me, the States continued of the same Mind they were; which was, that they could not break from their

Allies

Allies in this Point, notwithſtanding their Deſires to comply with any thing that ſhould be propoſed by his Majeſty: He added, that the Miniſters of the Confederates here, would, he believed, make no other Anſwer, but that having no Power to conclude upon ſuch a Point; they would report it to their reſpective Principals, and expect their Orders. I told the Penſioner ſince my laſt, the Juſtification that had been made you there, by Monſieur *Gioel*, of the *Daniſh* and *Brandenburgh* Miniſters Carriage here upon this Matter, and what I had written to you upon it, of my leaving Monſieur *Meyercroon* to diſpute that Matter with the Prince and him. The Penſioner replyed, that he knew very well he ſhould not be troubled with any ſuch Diſpute; for neither Monſieur *Meyercroon* nor *Blaſpyle* would ſay that to him, which they were ſaid to have written into *England*. That the Warmth of Monſieur *Meyercroon* had been greater than any other Miniſter's here; and Monſieur *Blaſpyle* had that very morning told him again, that the more he had thought of that Expedient, the more he found it impracticable; becauſe not only the Form of the Paſſports muſt be left to his Majeſty, but in caſe of any Difficulty, or Breach of them which ſhould occaſion

occaſion Diſputes among the Parties, the Interpretation of them muſt be left to his Majeſty too: Nor could it eaſily be found out how the Violator of any ſuch Paſſport ſhould be puniſhed, which was proper for every Prince to do in caſe of his own Subjects, as 'twas a Right that could not be given up to another.

That you may have one Inſtance more, how ingenuouſly you are dealt with by the Foreign Miniſters with you in this Matter: The Prince told me that Monſieur *Van Beuninghen* writ in his laſt Letter; that he was encouraged to preſs this Matter ſtill, by the Hopes I gave his Majeſty that it would be accepted here. Whereas you know what the Style of my Letters has been upon this Subject, from my very firſt Diſcourſes with the Prince. Nor could they have been true if they had been otherwiſe: Nor ſhall I ever give his Majeſty any Repreſentations that I do not think to be Right and True, till he ſhall pleaſe to tell me, that he had rather be deceived with falſe Lights, than be diſpleaſed with true ones.

Upon what you tell me of a Reſolution of the States that came by chance to your Hands, bearing date the 20*th* of *March*, which was the Day the Prince firſt ſpoke to me of this Matter; and that it would

would have been well that you had received a Copy of it earlier from my Hands: I will confeſs, I knew ſuch a Reſolution was taken, but not at all the Words or Particulars of it; and that about four or five days after, I ſaw a Copy of it; and in my next Letter ſent you an Account of what was in it. But it is not a Thing you muſt expect of me, to be able to give you Copies or Accounts of ſuch Reſolutions; though you call them Reſolutions of the States-General: Whereas though they paſs for ſuch, and have the Authority of them, yet they are ſo far from being ſo, that many times the States-General know nothing of them in three Months after they are taken. And though you are pleaſed to ſay, that Copy came to your Hands by chance, yet I am ſure it muſt have come by Monſieur *Van Beuninghen*, or ſome others of the States Miniſters in other Courts, or elſe by the Miniſters of ſome of their Allies. And upon this Occaſion it will be fit to inform you of a Conſtitution in this State, which I ſuppoſe you are not acquainted with; but which is become the chief Reſſort of the Government here.

In the War between his Majeſty and this State, begun the Year 1665; Monſieur *de Wit* propoſed and procured a Commiſſion to be granted by the States-Gene-

ral

ral to eight Commiſſioners, of which, two *Holland*, and one of each of other Province; who were called the Commiſſioners of Secret Affairs. Theſe were then choſen of ſuch Men who were perfectly in Confidence with him. Power was given them by their Commiſſion, to Deliberate, to Act, to Execute, in all Matters that were referred to them by the States, with the ſame Authority that the States themſelves could do; and yet the Liberty of doing it with ſuch Secrecy, that they were not bound to give any Account of what they reſolved to the States; but at ſuch times as they themſelves thought fit. The Matters referred to their Management, were all that concerned the War, any Foreign Alliances, the Propoſals and even Concluſions of Treaties; in caſe they were eſteemed neceſſary to be kept ſecret for a time, upon particular Reaſons of State. All Reſolutions taken by theſe Commiſſioners were ſigned by the Deputy as Preſident, who was of the ſame Province with the Preſident of the States-General, who was the only Officer that attended theſe Commiſſioners in their ſecret Deliberations. Theſe Reſolutions ſo ſigned were ſent to their Generals, Admirals, Ambaſſadors, and other publick Miniſters abroad for their Inſtructions, by which they

they acted; and were obſerved and obey'd as the Reſolutions of the States General, who had indeed only the Name and Form, whilſt theſe Commiſſioners had the whole management of Peace and War; and the diſpoſal of Offices and Levies of Moneys remained (as you know) in the Provincial Aſſemblies. It was with theſe Men I concluded that Treaty in 1668, in five days time, which made ſo great a Change in the Meaſures of *Chriſtendom*: And *Monſieur de Witt* there told me, that by this Inſtitution, the Government had avoided thoſe two Reproaches uſually laid upon Commonwealths, of wanting Secrecy in their Councils, and ſuddenneſs in their Executions.

Upon the laſt Change of the Government here, and the reſtoring of the Prince of *Orange* to the Poſt of his Anceſtors; this Inſtitution of *Monſieur de Witt* was thought fit to be continued, but with this only Change; they were firſt to conſult with his Highneſs before they paſs'd any Reſolutions; which, in ſhort, has devolved the whole Power and Management of Affairs upon the Prince in conjunction with theſe Commiſſioners; of whom the Penſioner is one, and hath the Influence among the reſt that *Monſieur de Witt* had before. This, as you may imagine, is ſtomach'd by many

ny in the Province and the Towns; but however it goes down, and being grown into a Piece with the Authority of the Prince, does not ſeem likely to change but with the Diminution thereof.

Yet the Penſioner in any difficult Caſes ſometimes ſummoneth the Miniſters of the Twelve chief Towns in the Province of *Holland* to conſult with; and upon the next Aſſembly of the States of *Holland* uſually gives them an Account of all Matters that have been acted by the Commiſſioners ſince the preceding Aſſembly, unleſs they judge the reaſon or neceſſity of Secrecy to continue ſtill. The Penſioner told me, he had laſt Week given them an Account of all that had paſs'd in the Difficulties of the Paſſports, and eſpecially that of *Lorain*: The Reſolution of their Allies to ſtick to that Point of having that Duke's Style allowed him; and the Opinion of the Commiſſioners, that this State was bound by their Treaties to adhere to them in that Pretence. That the States of *Holland* had unanimouſly approved of their Conduct in this whole Matter.

Now the Reſolution you mention of the States General, was a Reſolution of theſe Commiſſioners (who are called ſometimes, of the Secret, and ſometimes of the Foreign Affairs, which is indeed their proper Buſineſs

Buſineſs ſince the change of the Government, the management of the War being left wholly to the Prince); nor do I believe the States General have yet any knowledge of that Reſolution; nor is to be had otherwiſe than from the Prince or one of theſe eight Commiſſioners, who are ſworn to Secrecy, or ſome of the Ambaſſadors or Foreign Miniſters of this State, to whom ſuch Reſolutions are uſually ſent; to ſome for Inſtruction, and for Information to others who are in credit with the Government. This, I thought, might be very material for his Majeſty and Miniſters to know, as the main Reſſort of the preſent Government, and by which you may judge where the Power lies, how it moveth, and what is often meant by Reſolutions of the States General, which is grown a Term common to them and to theſe Commiſſioners.

I have delivered his Majeſty's Letters for the Emperor and Duke of *Brandenburg*, to their reſpective Miniſters here, ſo as you may reckon upon them as gone away by this Days Ordinary. The Marquis *de Grana* is ſtill here, detained for theſe two or three laſt days upon the Endeavours of compoſing the Pretenſions of the ſeveral Confederates to the paſt and future Conqueſts in the *Dutchy* of *Bremen*; their Diſſentions

Diſſentions having given ſome Delay to the beginning of that Siege.

The States of *Holland* reſolved this laſt Aſſembly upon the building of Six Ships, four whereof to be of eighty Guns a piece. I told the Prince, I believed they did it for a good Countenance, and to make the World believe they were richer than they found themſelves: His Highneſs ſmiled, and ſaid, it might be ſo; but upon *France* having ſo many Ships, and of the greateſt Rate, he thought they might have reaſon here to look a little more about them. But for himſelf, he had no part in this Reſolution, and would have been glad the Money might have been employed this Year upon the Land Forces. That it was done by the States of *Holland*, and at the Inſtance of the chief Trading Towns, eſpecially *Amſterdam* and *Rotterdam*. I told the Prince, they might talk what they would of the *French*, and their Growth at Sea: But whenſoever I ſaw them building Ships here of that Size, I ſhould believe it was done with ſome Reflexions upon us. The Prince replied theſe Words: *Shall I tell you the Truth? You may be ſure while the World ſtands, we will never fall out with* England, *if we can help it; but if you will fall out with us whether we will or no, we ſhould be ſorry to be found unprovided.* I ſaid,

I believed that would be as little as t' other now his Highneſs was where he ſhould be. And ſo the Matter ended.

I am,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

To Sir *William Godolphin.*

Hague, April 14. S. N. 1676.

My LORD,

I Have the Honour of one from your Excellency of the 25*th* paſt, by this Ordinary, which gave me an Account with more Certainty and Particulars of the Rumor we had before concerning the Arrival of the *Spaniſh* Galliens. The Reflexions you make upon it are a true Picture of Mankind, and the Motions that are frequently made in their Minds, by Accidents that touch

touch them perhaps no farther than their Ears. The Effects of this Kind reach even to these Parts, and I believe, to the very extent of this great Confederacy. This Place is now as dead as I have seen any great Town, or Seat of Publick Business, the Prince being gone last Week into the Field, at least, to the first Rendevous of his Troops near *Rosendale*, and with him all the Company that used to fill this Place. The Disgrace of the Chancellor in *Denmark*, and the Preparations for the Siege of *Staden* and *Philipsburg* take up most Talk here at this Time, but will, I suppose, soon give way to the Actions now likely to begin something nearer us: The *French* Designs upon *Ypre*, *Aire*, or *Charlemont*, or some other considerable Place in *Flanders*, being like to open a great Scene there. The Forces of the Confederates will certainly be very great, as well as those of the *French*; and seem all to conspire towards a very Active and Bloody Campaign.

The Talk of the Congress seems so out of date, that I am concerned for Sir *Lyonel Jenkins* his Melancholly Post at *Nimeguen*; which still continues in Expectation, rather than Hopes of some

lucky Incident that may ſtill revive it,

I am ever with much Reſpect and Truth,

My LORD,

Your Excellency's

moſt Faithful

Humble Servant.

To the KING.

Hague, April 23d. S.N. 1676.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

THE Day before the Prince of *Orange* left this Place, I attended him at *Hounſlerdyke* upon his own Appointment; and telling me ſeveral times that he had ſomething to ſay to me before he went into the Field, and deſired it might be there, and at ſome Leiſure. When we were alone in

in the Garden, he was pleaſed to tell me, I would eaſily believe the Inſtances of the State, and of his Friends, as well as the Condition of his Family, muſt needs have put him often upon the Thoughts of Marrying; but he had been ſtill in hopes that the Concluſion of a Peace would have made way for it ſooner than he now thought it was like to do: For at preſent, he did not ſee when or how that could be brought about, unleſs your Majeſty would reſolve upon ſuch Conditions as you ſhould think fit to have it made upon; and ſo propoſe them to the Parties, who were otherwiſe too diſtant in their Pretenſions to agree eaſily themſelves. That upon this Proſpect he began to think, his Marriage could not longer attend upon the Motions of the Peace, which might be very ſlow and uncertain; and therefore he would tell me freely, that he was reſolved, in caſe he returned from this Campaign, to neglect no time or Paces that could be made in the Purſuit of it. That for the Perſon, I might be ſure his Inclinations would lead him into *England*, though he did not know what Diſpoſitions he ſhould meet with there; and while the War laſted, it might on this ſide admit of much Reflexions, both from this State and their Allies. That however he would not go into the Field without

writing to your Majeſty, and to the Duke of what he had ſo much at heart; and begging the Permiſſion that immediately after the Campaign ended, he might go over into *England*. That he thought this would be neceſſary, both that he might make his own Purſuit himſelf, in an Affair that ſo nearly concerned him; and that by asking leave ſo early, no time might be loſt upon that Occaſion, when the Campaign was over. That he had Reaſon to deſire, this Affair might at preſent be managed with all the ſecrecy that could be, and therefore was reſolved to put the Letters concerning it into my Hands, and deſired my Wife might deliver them both to your Majeſty and his Royal Highneſs, and that he would take care to ſend them to me before he went.

This was the Sum of his Highneſs his Diſcourſe to me when I took leave of him; and his Letters both for your Majeſty and the Duke being ſome days after come to my hands, I thought it my Duty to ſend them according to the Directions I receiv'd from the Prince, and ſhall leave your Majeſty to know the reſt from his own Hand; tho' I think I have not miſtaken any thing of what he ſaid to me upon this Occaſion. I ſhall not farther increaſe your Majeſty's preſent Trouble, than by the humble

humble Profeſſions of that perfect Devotion wherewith I am and ſhall be ever,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's, &c.

To the Duke of *YORK*.

Hague, *April* 23*d*. S. N. 1676.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs,

WHEN I took leave of the *Prince* of *Orange* at his going to the Army, he was pleaſed to tell me the Reſolutions he had taken of Writing to your Highneſs upon an Occaſion he had ſo much at heart; and that he would do it before he went into the Field. He ſaid, he was reſolved to apply himſelf directly to your Highneſs in all that concerned it, and to beg your Interceſſion with his Majeſty, that he might have leave to go over into *England* immediately after the Campaign ended. That he would likewiſe write to his Maje-

ſty at the ſame time, to beg his Permiſſion. And becauſe he had reaſon to deſire that whatever Paces he made at preſent in this Point might be ſecret, he was reſolved to put his Letters into my Hands; and deſired that my Wife upon her going over, might her ſelf deliver them both to his Majeſty and your Highneſs, I thought it my Duty to obſerve theſe Directions: And having by the ſame Hand given his Majeſty an Account of the Manner and Circumſtance with which the Prince was pleaſed to enter into theſe Diſcourſes; I ſhall not preſume to trouble your Highneſs with the bare Repetition of them, nor with any thing more at preſent than the humble Profeſſions of the Devotion and Truth wherewith I am always,

S R,

Your Highneſs's, &c.

To

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague, May 19. S. N. 1676.

SIR,

BY the laſt Poſt I had nothing worth your Trouble farther than the Notice of what I received from the Penſioner as the Pacquet was cloſing; that he hoped the Exchange of the Paſſports might be made the next Day, or on *Munday* at fartheſt. I heard no more from him till *Sunday* Night; but finding a Conference had been appointed for eight a Clock on *Munday* Morning upon that Subject, between the States and their Allies, I thought fit to ſpeak with the Penſioner late on *Sunday* Night, and endeavour to know of him, whether there were any new Occaſion of this Delay, in a Matter that I thought deſerved a better and ſpeedier Reception. He told me, the true Reaſon was, that the Emperor's Miniſter had not yet the Paſſports in his hands, but that they were at *Cologne*, from whence he was certain to receive them that Night: And that after the next Conference, the Deputies of the States would certainly attend

me

me with the neceſſary Paſſports, and make the Exchange.

I remember very well, that ſome Months ſince, the Emperor's Miniſter affirmed to be then poſſeſs'd of all his Paſſports; which I took notice of to the Penſioner, the Delay being ſhort, and then ſo near an end. But I have ſince Reaſon to believe, the Diſpatch he expected was from *Duſſeldorp* rather than *Cologne*, and concerted by him with the Duke of *Nieuburge*, in order to the producing ſuch a Reſolution as I received yeſterday from the States. The Penſioner had before obſerved to me ſome difference between the Paſſports of *France*, and thoſe of the Confederates, and the neceſſity of their inſiſting upon their being equal, which I undertake for. One was, that the Word *Repaſſer* was omitted in the *French*. Another was, that the Clauſe for Liberty of Couriers was ſo likewiſe; whereas both were inſerted in thoſe of the Confederates: And the third was, that there was but one *French* Paſſport for any of the Confederates, except only for *Spain*: Whereas thoſe of the Confederates were, three for the *French* and *Swediſh* Miniſters; and ſo many would be neceſſary for each of the Confederates; ſince they might think fit to ſend ſo many Miniſters; and either from ſeveral Places, or at ſeveral Times, ſo as not to be capable

of

of uſing one Paſſport. In all theſe Matters we found nothing of Conſequence to hinder the Exchange of Paſſports, and diſpatch of them to the reſpective Miniſters. Since on the one ſide, I made no difficulty of engaging his Majeſty's Endeavours to procure the Supplement of theſe Defects on the *French* Side: And on the other Part, the Penſioner ſaid, they would declare, that in caſe that was refuſed, their Paſſports ſhould reach no farther than thoſe of *France*; which I did not conteſt.

Yeſterday, being *Munday* Afternoon, two of the States Deputies came to me, and told me, they came from their Maſters, in the firſt place, to repeat their Thanks, and thoſe of their Allies to his Majeſty, for the late Offices performed in this matter of the *Lorain* Paſſports. In the next, to make the Exchange of them, having brought with them thoſe of their Confederates; and to put into my hands at the ſame time, the Reſolution taken by the States and their Allies, declaring the Conditions upon which the Exchange was to be made. They excuſed the Reſolutions, not being yet tranſlated into *French*, by reaſon of the haſt they made to bring it me after it was agreed on; but did undertake to read it to me in *French* out of the *Dutch* Original. The firſt part contained thoſe three Particulars

mentioned,

mentioned, and in the ſame manner the Penſioner underſtood they ſhould paſs: But after that came a Clauſe; That whereas the Duke of *Nieuburg* was lately entered into the Confederacy; that his Majeſty was deſired likewiſe to procure Paſſports for his Miniſters, and an Aſſurance from the King of *France* of granting Paſſports to whatſoever Prince or State ſhould hereafter enter into their Alliance: Without both which the preſent Paſſports ſhould be of no Force or Effect. And with theſe Conditions they offered to make the Exchange of Paſſports.

I was, I confeſs, very much ſurprized to meet with a Clauſe ſo little expected, and, as I thought, ſo very impertinent; and thereupon told them without farther deliberation, my own Thoughts upon it. That for the ſmall Difference in the Form of Paſſports, I thought there would be no Difficulty, and queſtioned not his Majeſty's Inſtances and Succeſs upon them. That for the laſt, I eſteemed it a very unfit return to ſo much Pains as his Majeſty had taken in the purſuit of this Affair, and the Diligence he had uſed in the diſpatch of the *Lorain* Paſſports by Expreſs, immediately after he had with ſo much difficulty obtained them. That they had delayed the Exchange of them now for eight Days, and at length offered

offered it with Conditions that I eſteemed wholly eluſory, and upon which for my own part I could not think fit to make the Exchange; not knowing what other Advantage would be gained by it, than to keep the Paſſports of the Confederates as long in my Cabinet, as I had already done thoſe of *France* and *Sweden*: That upon the firſt offer of his Majeſty's Mediation, it was long before all the Confederates had accepted it; and long before they afterwards agreed to a place of Treaty propoſed by his Majeſty, though in their own Territories. That in *December* laſt they ſignified to his Majeſty the Names of all their Confederates for whom they deſired Paſſports, and upon the diſpatch whereof they then aſſured the Delivery of theirs, and thoſe of the Confederates without farther Condition. That an Incident having fallen out upon the Style of the Duke of *Lorain*, his Majeſty had for ſeveral Months laboured for the removal of it, and at length obtained it with great difficulty. That when he now expected the immediate change of the Paſſports, and conſequently the ſudden forming of the Congreſs, wherein his Honour was ſo far engaged; they clogg'd it with two new Conditions; of which I thought the firſt out of Form, and out of Time; and the other wholly out of Reaſon and Practice.

That

That for the Duke of *Nieuburg*, I know he was a Prince for whom his Majeſty had not only a particular Eſteem, but Kindneſs too; and if either before or after the Exchange of Paſſports, they ſhould have ſignified that new Alliance to his Majeſty, and their Deſires of Paſſports for him, I believed his Majeſty would employ the ſame Endeavours for his Miniſters, as for thoſe of the other Allies. But hitherto his Majeſty had received no notice of his entring into the Confederacy, unleſs they intended he ſhould have it from *Gazetts*: Nor had the Duke of *Nieuburg* either received ſince the Offers of his Majeſty's Mediation, or, that I know of, ſignified his Acceptation of it by himſelf, or the States, as all other their Allies had done: And conſequently it was out of form to deſire his Majeſty's Offices in this Matter, before thoſe Circumſtances were paſt. And it was very much out of time to deſire them juſt upon the Exchange of the Paſſports, and with Condition of their being void without the ſucceſs of them, ſince the Exchange was intended for the ſudden meeting of the Plenipotentiaries at the Place of Congreſs. And this Condition muſt of neceſſity delay it till both his Majeſty's Reſolution were known in mediating a new Propoſal, and that of *France* in granting it: In which I was not yet informed of either

either of their Intentions, nor could be till a return from both Courts. That, for the other part of the Condition, which was an Aſſurance from *France* of granting Paſſports to all Princes or States that ſhould hereafter enter into their Confederacy; though they made it ſeem plauſible by offering the Reciprocal to *France* and *Sweden* from the Confederates; yet I thought it wholly impertinent and impracticable: And tho' I could not pretend to know whether either his Majeſty would think fit to deſire it, or the Moſt Chriſtian King to agree to it; yet I was ſure I would not be of the Opinion for either of them to be done; or for any Paſſports to be ſollicited by one, or given by the other, but for Prince and States that were named at the deſiring of them. That the States might deſire Paſſports for the Kings of *Macaſſar* and *Ceylon*, who were already their Allies, or for the Duke of *Moſcovy*, who I hear was invited into the Confederacy of the preſent War. That I knew not whether his Majeſty would trouble himſelf with a Mediation in their behalfs. That, to go nearer home, ſome Prince in the Alliance of *France* might change his Party, and enter into theirs; and I did not know whether in ſuch a Caſe the Moſt Chriſtian King would think fit to admit ſuch an Ally into the Treaty, or whether

ther his Majeſty would ſollicite it: Nor did I conceive either could be reſolved without the conſidering of Circumſtances as they ſhould appear when the Caſe came in queſtion. That, in the mean time, to make the Validity of the preſent Paſſports depend upon a future Condition, which could not be ſecured before hand, were to make the Congreſs wholly deſperate: For no Miniſters either from *France* or *Sweden* could think fit to come to *Nimeguen*, when in caſe at any time during their Reſidence there; upon the States deſiring Paſſports, a new Ally which *France* (upon Circumſtances that might attend it) ſhould have reaſon to refuſe; the preſent Paſſports were to become immediately void; and not only thereupon, the Negotiations if begun, or never ſo much advanced, muſt immediately ceaſe; but the *French* and *Swediſh* Miniſters muſt remain in their Enemies Country, without any ſafety to their very Perſons; ſince that could be grounded only upon their Paſſports, which would remain in danger of becoming invalid upon any ſuch Accident. That for my own part, I took this to be a Strain of ſome of the Allies which were Enemies of Peace, and ſo employ'd their Wits to find out Pretences of delaying or breaking the Congreſs. That, however, ſince they brought it me as a Reſolution of the

the States, I desired it in *French* (as all used to be that passed between his Majesty and this State); tho' the use I intended to make of it, was not so much to send it to his Majesty, as to draw up immediately an Answer to it of my own, containing the present Remarks I had made to them upon it; and what others should occur to me upon second Thoughts, which I would not only send to the States, but at the same time print and publish it; that all their Subjects might see upon what Points they and their Confederates turned the Affairs of the Peace: In which I knew very well how the People of these Provinces were concerned, whether the Government or their Allies were so or no.

Upon these Representations the Deputies of the States were so far moved, that instead of replying or maintaining the Resolution they had brought, they told me what I had said was of so much weight, that they thought themselves obliged to represent it to the States before they delivered me the Resolution. That they desired me therefore to excuse them for the delivery of it till next day; and in the mean time were very glad to understand my Opinion upon it, which they would report to their Masters that very Evening, and doubted not of having another Conference upon it this Morning with their Allies.

At their going away after all this had pass'd, one of them told me privately, *Que j' avois la plus grande raison du monde*: That their Compliance with some of their Allies had engaged them in this Matter upon a Letter from the Duke of *Nieuburg* that came yesterday, desiring no Exchange might be made of the Passports without securing his according to his Treaty.

That which I understood to be at the bottom of this whole Matter is, the Interest of the Emperor, not only to secure the Passports for the Duke of *Nieuburg*, who is at present entered into the Alliance, but likewise for the Duke of *Bavaria*, who they believe will also be suddenly engaged, and chiefly by the Offices of the Duke of *Nieuburg* to that purpose; who being of the same Family, has great Credit and Influence in the Court of *Bavaria*. And they believe neither of them will be engaged without the same Condition of being equally considered in all Treaties, and comprehended in any Peace with the rest of the Confederates already named.

I know not what I shall receive from the States this Evening, and before the closure of this Pacquet. But in the mean time I thought it necessary to give his Majesty this Account of what has hitherto pass'd: And am of opinion, the States will not be able

to

to bear the Noiſe of this Matter if they perſiſt in it: But that in ſuch a Caſe they will be forced to conſider the Humour of their People, as well as the Intereſt of their Allies.

Thus far I had written by four a Clock this Afternoon; ſince which time the Deputies of the States have again been with me, and told me; That having repreſented to the States the Reaſon I gave them yeſterday againſt the Reſolution they had then brought me; They had ſince had a Conference with their Allies upon them; and that they all agreed, That to expreſs the general and ſincere Intentions they all had towards a Peace; and withal, the great regard they had for the Opinion of an Ambaſſador of his Majeſty's, in what he thought concerned both the Honour and Deſires of his Majeſty in the Mediation of the Peace; They would remove thoſe Difficulties I had obſerved like to ariſe upon yeſterday's Reſolution; and to that end had altered the Reſolution it ſelf, and brought me in a Form which they doubted not would agree with his Majeſty's Intentions; and had given it the ſame Date, to the end there might be no appearance of the former Reſolution: And that in purſuit of it they were ready to exchange the Paſſports, without any ſuch Conditions as were yeſterday mentioned.

I read the Resolution, (which I send you inclosed) and found nothing else to reflect on but the last Clause; and asked them whether they understood it to refer only to the precedent Period concerning the Equality pretended in the Passports, or likewise to that former Clause about the Duke of *Nieuburg*. They both affirmed, that it was meant only to refer to that immediately preceeding, and not to what concerned the Duke of *Nieuburg*. Upon this we proceeded to the Exchange of Passports, in which we found several Points a little defective: As, that four of the *German* Princes had not yet sent their Passports, nor could they assure me when they should have them. But the chief was, that those of the Emperor were not yet here; but they affirmed that they were every day expected, and that they had been here some Months since; but upon those of *France* being short of the Form agreed on, especially in the Clause about Couriers; the Emperor's Minister had sent for new ones in the same Form; and was assured they were at *Cologne*, where he had likewise sent the old ones, so as to be now possess'd of none.

In the next place, there were no Passports from *Spain*, no more than from the Emperor for the Bishop of *Strasburg*; but these they assured me were consented to by both, and undertook to put them into my hands.

In

In the next place, becauſe *France* had ſent but one Paſſport for each of the Confederates beſides *Spain*, they had each of them ſent but one for *France*; and the ſame happened likewiſe in thoſe of *Sweden*. But the Exchange of our Paſſports having begun by thoſe of *France* and *Spain*, and this State, and ſome of theſe Difficulties not appearing till that was performed which ſeemed the moſt material: We concluded to go on in the Exchange as far as we were provided; and thereupon proceeded as far as you will ſee marked in the incloſed Liſt. Thoſe from *France* and *Sweden* to the Emperor and the four *German* Princes, who have not yet ſent their Paſſports, I have retained ſtill in my Hands till theirs arrive. I ſhall expect thoſe of the Emperor till *Friday*; by which time the Deputies aſſure me they will be here. If they come not by that time, I ſhall be ſure however to diſpatch away all thoſe I am already poſſeſs'd of, to the *French* Ambaſſadors, by the Conveyance you preſcribe me of an Expreſs to *Maſtricht*; and deliver thoſe for *Sweden* to *Monſieur Sylvercroon* the Commiſſary of that Crown, excepting one you deſire for *Monſieur Spar*, which I ſhall ſend in Blank to your Hands, being already poſſeſs'd of three from the States, and reſolving to endeavour to get as many by that time from *Spain* and *Denmark*, if thoſe Miniſters have ſo many in their Hands.

For the Biſhop of *Strasburg* I formerly ſent you one from this State, and ſhall follow it with the reſt as ſoon as they arrive. In the mean time you will pleaſe to procure three Paſſports for the Emperor; for I have yet but one, and that may, for ought I know, be the Reaſon of the Emperor's Miniſters diſowning to have any Paſſports; being a Man ſomething Puntillious, and having deſired me a Week ago to procure 'em, not without complaint of ſuch a neglect from *France*; but without any thing that look'd like his wanting thoſe of his Maſter.

I hope his Majeſty will approve the Progreſs I have made in this Matter, tho' it be not yet compleat; which has fallen out chiefly by the number of Paſſports failing on the *French* and *Swediſh* part. I cannot but be glad to find it upon the Terms it now is, conſidering where it was yeſterday, and did not expect ſo abſolute a change of the Reſolution in ſo little time; having laſt night found *Monſieur Serinchamp*'s very peremptory in defending that Reſolution of the States. But this Morning the *Hannover* Reſident told my Secretary, that there had been very warm Debates upon it between the States and ſome of their Allies, who perſiſted ſo far, that the Penſioner asked them: *Et que pretendez vous donc Meſſieurs*

d

de nous faire dechirer par la canaille. But theſe Paſſages of their private Conferences you will pleaſe may not be publick, becauſe that may hinder me another time from knowing them; which is ſometimes neceſſary to acquaint me with the Springs from which the Publick Motions of ſuch Affairs ariſe.

I have reaſon to think you tired out with this Length, and am very ſenſible of being ſo my ſelf: Which leaves me only to acknowledge yours of the *5th*, not finding any thing requires farther return than what I have already ſaid about the Paſſports you mention for *Monſieur Spar*, and the Biſhop of *Strasburg*.

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

To the Prince of *Orange*.

Hague, May 29. S. N. 1676.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

THE Incloſure of this Letter from his Majeſty muſt bear me out in giving your Highneſs this preſent Trouble. It came to me ſeconded by one from Mr. Secretary *Coventry* upon the ſame Occaſion, and was delivered to me by the Lady in whoſe Favour I ſuppoſe it was deſigned. I told her, I did not believe your Highneſs would do any thing in thoſe kind of Affairs till your Return from the Field; and ſhe ſeemed to believe ſo too; but however deſired I would ſend your Highneſs the Letter, which I promiſed by the firſt: And that is all my Part in this Affair.

All that I can ſay in another wherewith your Highneſs encharged me, is, that the * Perſon chiefly concerned, endeavoured to have it excuſed abſolutely till after the Peace; and that ſuch an Anſwer might be given; upon which time was taken to conſider: Since which I have hear'd nothing, but imagine 'tis poſſible your Highneſs may by a nearer way.

* *The Duke of* York.

Having

Having exchanged the Paſſports, and diſpatch'd them to *Maſtricht* a Week ſince, I do not foreſee any thing likely to hinder the *French* Ambaſſador's Journey to *Nimeguen*, tho' it may be a little delay'd by the *Count d'Eſtrade's* Exception to his Paſs from the States, which ſtiles him only *Conte*; to which he deſires may be added, *Mareſchal de France*. I ſuppoſe there will be no Difficulty made upon it, nor I hope, in the Emperor's Paſſports, tho' they are not yet come; but I believe it may have been only negligence, without any other Myſtery.

In my laſt Letters from *Madrid* of the *7th* current, our Ambaſſador there writes me word, that after a Conſultation in that Court upon the Propoſal of his Majeſty's Expedient, of giving all the Paſſports himſelf; the *Count de Pignoranda* had come to him with a Meſſage, declaring that King's Conſent to it ſo far as concerned all his Dominions and Territories ſubject to his Obedience. The Ambaſſador writes farther, that this Reſolution was taken there, contrary to the Advice of many Paſſionate Letters that were written thither upon that Subject from *Holland* and *Flanders*. I thought this was a Light fit to give your Highneſs, becauſe you would not perhaps receive it any other ways: For *Monſieur de Lyra* profeſſes

to

to know nothing of it, and would make a Difficulty of believing it; tho' I am ſure it cannot fail after the manner it comes to me.

I have not yet fixed the time of my going to *Nimeguen*, expecting other Motions that way, unleſs new Orders preſs me from Court. I doubt not but what paſſes in the Field will ſignifie more than what will paſs there this Summer as to the Peace, which your Highneſs ſays (in the Honour I received of one from you of the 18*th*) you will labour in. I am very ſorry for the Accidents you tell me have hinder'd you in ſo great a Deſign, and very glad of the hopes you expreſs of being able to advance it; ſince nothing can be of more Glory to your Highneſs, and nothing can touch me more than whatever is ſo; being as I am, and as I ſhall be ever with ſo much Devotion and Truth,

SIR,

Your Highneſs's moſt

Obedient and moſt

Humble Servant.

To

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague June 2*d.* S. N. 1676.

SIR,

ON *Saturday* laſt, I received a Letter from the Mareſchal *d' Eſtrades* by the Trumpet I ſent, with acknowledgment of my Packet incloſing the Paſſports for the *French* Plenipotentiaries, which he ſaid he had diſpatch'd away immediately to *Charleville*; excepting only his own Paſſport from the States. This he ſent me; but finding fault with their treating him *Le Sieur Compte d' Eſtrades*, without the Style of *Marechal de France*; and deſiring me to procure another with that Change. This I have done, and diſpatch'd it away to him this afternoon; but could not at the ſame time ſend him the Emperor's Paſſports, which are not yet arrived.

I do not think it can be this Default, which makes ſo little Advance as yet in the Preparations for *Nimeguen*, that Sir *Lyonel Jenkins* writes me word, their Servants there own to know nothing yet of that Matter; and have no Orders to get any thing ready to convey or receive them. I rather ſuppoſe it may be the Buſineſs of the

the *Compte d' Eſtrade*'s Equipage, which he intends very great; having ſent hither for Paſſports for his Servants to buy two and fourty Coach-horſes, and by a Liſt the Trumpeter ſhewed me of their intended Equipage; his ſhare is four and twenty *Lacquais*, and all the reſt in proportion. The other two will have the ſame Number between them. The *Spaniards* you know, that cannot vye with the *French* in Things of more Importance, will not fail of doing it to the height in this. And I remember laſt year when the Marquis *de Mancera* was deſigned for the *Congreſs*, a Liſt was ſent hither of the Equipage he intended, of which there were to be twenty *Pages*. I ſuppoſe the Marquis *de los Balbaces* may not go lower; having they ſay, a Revenue of two hundred thouſand Crowns yearly; beſides the Allowance for his Embaſſy. If all be like to go at this rate in ſuch a Town as *Nimeguen*; I do not ſee how we ſhall avoid one of the three Judgments; of War, or Famine, or Sickneſs: Beſides, that it is not his Majeſty's Intent for ought I find, that his Ambaſſadors ſhall enter the Liſts upon any ſuch Emulations. I cannot tell if theſe Circumſtances may make it ſeem worth his Majeſty's conſidering, whether it would be fit to write to the ſeveral Crowns concerned in this Treaty, that

that to prevent the Diſorder and Inconveniences of too great Trains in a ſmall Town, upon the Aſſembly of ſo many Miniſters; his Majeſty had commanded his not to exceed each of them the Number of four Pages and eight *Lacquais*, and would be glad the reſt would follow that Example. As likewiſe for all Crimes againſt the Peace of the Place, each Ambaſſador ſhould be allowed to put his Servants ſo guilty, into the Hands of the uſual Juſtice of the Town of *Nimeguen*. And that they ſhould be inſtructed to live eaſily in all Points of meer Ceremony during the *Congreſs*; like Perſons who were ſent thither with Diſpoſitions to advance the Peace, and not to ſharpen the Quarrels of their Maſters by thoſe of the Miniſters; which may otherwiſe very well fall out. I thought it poſſible ſome ſuch Circumſtances could not be amiſs to add to circular Letters which his Majeſty might ſend, for haſtning away of the ſeveral Ambaſſadors, upon the end ſo happily attained in all preliminary Difficulties: For I doubt there may be need of ſuch Inſtances towards the Diſpatch of the *Auſtrian*, *Daniſh*, and *Brandenburgh* Miniſters, by the Diſpoſitions I obſerve from the Motions of thoſe Courts thus far of the Way.

This

This day one of the State's Deputies brought me the incloſed Paper, grounded upon a Memorial given them by the *Brandenburgh* Miniſters; in a Stile ſo *bruſque* as I hear, as to deſire of the States, that till the Change pretended were made in his Maſter's Paſſpotts, they would give Order to forbid the *French* Plenipotentiaries Entrance into the Town of *Nimeguen*. I hear, he expects not only to ſend Ambaſſadors, but to have them treated in all Points like thoſe of Crowned Heads. In which, I neither know his Majeſty's Style, nor that of *France*, but ſuppoſe it will be neceſſary for us to be diſtinctly informed of the firſt.

I was extream glad to find by your laſt of the 16th, his Majeſty's final Reſolution upon that Matter of the firſt Viſit; which I ever foreſaw would engage us, and perhaps the *Congreſs*, in ſome Difficulties. You will pleaſe more particularly to inſtruct, whether we are to give the firſt Viſits likewiſe to thoſe that come after us from the Duke of *Lorrain* or the Electors, with Characters of Ambaſſadors: For I hear, thoſe from the Duke and the Elector of *Brandenburgh* will certainly do ſo.

Monſieur *de Lyra* will not acknowledge to know any thing of what Sir *William Godolphin* writes me, of that Crown's having

having consented to his Majesty's Expedient: But I have told it the Pensioner; who says he will another time desire him to consult with his Instructions, or at least with his Letters, to know whether he is like to be avowed or not.

I am,

SIR,

Yours &c.

To the DUKE.

Hague June 16th S. N. 1676.

May it please Your Highness,

AFTER so great an Honour as this Packet brought me, by one from your Highness of the 30*th* past; I thought it could not too soon be either acknowledged or obeyed. And therefore I presume to give your Highness most humble Thanks for the Honour I received, at the same time I dispatch'd away the inclosed to the Prince of *Orange*. I very well remember his Majesty's Mind, which he was

was pleaſed himſelf to ſignify to me when I was laſt in *England*, upon Diſcourſe of the Prince's Journy thither: But never had any Occaſion to make uſe of it, till I took Leave of him the Day before he left this Place. For though his Majeſty had laſt Winter ſome Jealouſy of ſuch an Intention; yet I never heard the Prince ſay one word towards it ſince my firſt coming over till then; unleſs it was when my Lord *Chamberlain* was here: And whatever he ſaid then in my hearing, look'd rather like Civility or Return of Compliment, than any ſerious Thought. When he entered thoſe Diſcourſes upon it, which I gave his Majeſty and your Highneſs an Account of; I told him his Majeſty's Mind: To which he replyed, that he had always thought ſo too, while he had any Hopes of the Peace being made: But he did not ſee how that could be, unleſs his Majeſty would make it by declaring the Terms upon which he thought it fit and reaſonable for both Parties to agree. That he did not find his Majeſty diſpoſed to make this Peace; having never received any Anſwer to what he had written upon that Subject. And therefore the War being in his Opinion like to draw out in Length, he was reſolved to try if he might have his Majeſty's Leave, to make that Journy after this Cam-

Campaign, and thereupon to write thoſe Letters he ſent me. Further than conveying them I had nothing in commiſſion from his Highneſs, but only to endeavour that it might be Secret. And I muſt confeſs, as far as my ſhort Sight will reach, I think there can be no Inconvenience in that, from Circumſtances on all Sides, whether it ends here or no; which will depend wholly upon his Majeſty and your Highneſs.

I am ſorry this Station furniſhes me with no Occaſions of entring into your Highneſs's more particular Service, by the Honour of your Commands; which ſhould always meet with the Obedience that becomes me, and the conſtant Devotion wherewith I am,

SIR,

Your Highneſs's moſt

Faithful and moſt

Obedient Humble Servant.

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, June 24. S. N. 1676.

My LORD,

I Have by ſome Letters from my Wife received ſo great Teſtimonies of your Lordſhip's Favour to me; that I find it as hard for me to make the Acknowledgments that become me, as it would be to neglect them any longer. Therefore I could not forbear engaging your Lordſhip in this Trouble; though I have nothing elſe to bear me out beſides the Humble Thanks I am to return your Lordſhip, for concerning your ſelf ſo obligingly in what touched me ſo unjuſtly; and the Aſſurances that no Man can be either more ſenſible of your Favour, nor more reſolved to deſerve it by my Services, whenever they be worth your Lordſhip's employing upon any Occaſion.

I am endeavouring as faſt as I can, to get looſe from hence in order to my Journey for *Nimeguen*; where we are like to enter into a wide Sea: And though we ſhould ſteer the Courſe his Majeſty preſcribes us never ſo well; yet it will be a great deal

Subject

Subject to the Winds that ſhall riſe from the Humours of the ſeveral Parties, and the Tides that will run differently according to their Succeſſes. The *French* have given of late all the Facility they could to the *Congreſs*, and made haſt to the Place, as deſiring no better Peace than upon the preſent Plan of Affairs. The Confederates, eſpecially the Houſe of *Auſtria* are ſullen as Loſers uſe to be; and ſo in all the Paces to the Treaty are ſlow and reſty; hoping for ſomething from the Campaign, which may make room for Pretentions that would hardly be in countenance as Things ſtand at preſent. The *Suede* is earneſt for a Peace; as having more hopes of recovering himſelf that way than by a War. This State deſires it as much as any; and has no Pretences of its own; but dares not break from their Confederates, not truſting *England* enough, nor *France* at all; ſo as to depend upon either after the Peace is made. *Denmark* and *Brandenburgh* are eager in the War; finding the *Suedes* weak, divided, and unrelievable by *France* any further than their Money; and ſo hoping to drive them this Summer out of *Germany*; which for ought I ſee, they may endanger, if the Concert of the Confederates prove anſwerable to their Strength in thoſe Parts.

With theſe Diſpoſitions the *Congreſs* is to begin ; but how it will end, muſt certainly depend in a great meaſure upon the Succeſſes that will attend the Campaign. The Deſigns at preſent of the Confederates ſeem to determin in the Siege of *Stratſonde* in *Pomerania* ; of *Philipsburgh* in *Germany* ; and in *Flanders* upon that of *Maeſtricht* : And it will be hard if one of theſe does not occaſion a Battle, which may be more deciſive than any Siege.

I know your Lordſhip has but too much Share in the Trouble of my conſtant Letters to Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* : And therefore I ſhall not give you any further Interruption, than by the very unfeigned Profeſſions of my being moſt paſſionately, and ever,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's moſt

Faithful and moſt

Humble Servant.

To the KING.

Nimeguen, September 2*d.* S. N. 1676.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

THough what we writ joyntly this day, of our conjecture that ſome of the parties, perhaps on each Side; would this Winter endeavour rather to fall into ſeperate Meaſures with ſome of the parties, than to advance a general Peace; was grounded upon what Sir *Lionel Jenkins* told me, he had obſerved in his late Viſits and Converſations with the *French* Ambaſſadors; wherein they owned very plainly their hopes and expectation of breaking the force of the Alliance this Winter, by drawing off either the *Dutch*, or at leaſt ſome of the *German* Princes. Yet I thought fit to trouble your Majeſty with ſome more particular Obſervations of my own, upon this Subject in Diſcourſe more private with ſeveral of the parties; and which I have not communicated to any other. *Monſieur Colbert*, after much Compliment to me the firſt Month I was here; of his Maſter's particular eſteem of me, and of his own believing that no Man but I could make the Peace; in regard of the Intereſt he

believed I had with the Prince of *Orange*, and of the neceſſity there was of the Houſe of *Auſtria*'s complying with any Meaſures the Prince ſhould take: Has lately deſcended into more particular Diſcourſes, of the advantages the Prince ſhall be ſure to find in a Treaty with the King his Maſter: Of the Convenience the Prince would find in carrying it on privately with *France*, during the more publick Negotiations here: That the late Duke of *Bavaria* did the ſame at the Treaty of *Munſter*, and thereby was the Perſon that made that Peace; and at the ſame time eſtabliſh'd his own Intereſts with all the advantage he could propoſe to himſelf: That the Prince of *Orange* might act the ſame part here, and with the ſame Succeſs both to the General Peace and to Himſelf: That he could Negotiate it by no Man ſo well as by me; and none could have a part of greater Honour or Advantage, than mine would be in the conduct of ſuch an Affair. I told him upon this occaſion, the truth of what I thought concerning the Prince and my Self in this matter; which was, that though perhaps his Highneſs would hear me talk to him, either of his general or particular Intereſts as ſoon as another Man; yet I had never known that perſon who had *aucun pouvoir ſur ſon eſprit*. That

your

your Majeſty had found you had a great deal leſs than you had reaſon to expect; and that others had none at all who pretended to have more than their ſhare. That by what I knew of the Prince's Diſpoſitions, I much doubted, the relief of *Maſtricht* would not diſpoſe him to the Peace; and that he would be loath to ſet down Melancholly at the *Hague*, with that Thorn at his Heart. That I heard he was *fort dépité* at preſent; but that when the Campaign ended, I ſhould have Occaſion of of ſeeing him, and ſhould then be ſure to know the bottom of his Heart; which I ſhould acquaint your Majeſty with, and obſerve your Directions upon it. *Monſieur Colbert* replyed, that if the Prince would by me have given them any private aſſurances, that the carrying of *Maſtricht* would have diſpoſed him to the Peace; he was ſure the King his Maſter would willingly have given him the Glory of it, and imploy'd his Army ſome-where in *Flanders*; *Mais qu' il ne falloit pas quitter le certain pour l' incertain*; that he believed the Prince was in ill Humour upon it, *mais que le temps le rameneroit*; and that he believed, that would not be before the end of the Campaign.

I obſerved in ſome particular Diſcourſes of *Monſieur Beverning*, in a Humour when

we are apteſt to tell truth; that at leaſt for his own part, he was extream ill Satisfy'd with the *Spaniards*, and with the War being purſued only for the Intereſts of that Crown, who contributed ſo little towards it; that he deſired the Peace ſo much, as if *Spain* would not be reaſonable in it, to wiſh for it without them. This I know is the Senſe of the ſubſtantial part of the People in *Holland*, as well as his; and whether the Prince and the Perſons at preſent in the Government, will be able after this diſgrace at *Maeſtricht*, to keep the Spirits there in temper enough to carry on the War another Year; I cannot yet or at this diſtance take upon me to judge.

I have obſerved by my Converſation with the *Suediſh* Miniſters, both at the *Hague* and here. That they deſire a Peace with more impatience than any of the parties; and ſo far, that if they cannot have it general in a ſhort time, they would be glad of a particular one either with *Holland*, or the Duke of *Brandenburgh*. They do not think *France* conſiders them at all in proportion to the Loſſes and Misfortunes they have engaged them in: And one of their Ambaſſadors told me, he did not believe *que les affaires fuſſent encore dans l'aſſiette que la France demandoit, ny qu'il eſtoit neceſſaire pour leur faire tout de bon*

ſou-

ſouhaitter la paix generale. He ſaid this a little Myſteriouſly, making me believe he had already particular reaſon to think ſo, but ſhould in a little time know more; and would then in confidence acquaint me with it.

I doubt it will be neceſſary for me in the courſe of this Affair, ſometimes to give your Majeſty ſome ſuch accounts as this, of what may paſs to me in particular confidence from ſome of the Miniſters, either by force of old acquaintances or any other motions they ſhall find towards it. And poſſibly they may give your Majeſty more light than the more open paces here. But if your Majeſty will avoid the trouble, and appoint any other Perſon to whom I ſhall addreſs ſuch diſpatches; I ſhall not further preſume to give your Majeſty theſe Interruptions, but content my ſelf with your Majeſty's Pardon for what is paſt, and with your Juſtice in believing and accepting that inviolable Truth and Devotion, wherewith I am, and ſhall be ever,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt Loyal Subject and Servant.

W. Temple.

To

To the KING.

Nimeguen, Sept. 20. S. N. 1676.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty.

UPon the Prince's Return from the Army he was pleaſed to write me a Letter giving me notice of it, and deſiring me to meet him at his Houſe near *Utrecht*, which I did on *Thurſday* laſt. I ſtaid two days with his Highneſs, and had very large Diſcourſes with him upon the Events of the preſent Campaign, and appearances of the Treaty: As to my own Part in them, I ſhall only ſay, that they were all apply'd to thoſe Ends, and in that Method which I thought moſt agreeable to your Majeſty's Intentions, and to the ſeveral Inſtructions I have had the Honour to receive from your Majeſty, or by your Order upon this Subject: The Subſtance of all his Highneſs Diſcourſe I ſhall ſum up in as few and as ſhort Heads as I can for your Majeſty's eaſe.

Le mal heur de ſon poſte, ou pendant que les autres faſoient les fautes, c'etait á luy de ſouffrir la honte.

He expreſt great ſenſe of the Misfortune of this Campaign, and ſaid, he knew very well, *Le mal heur de ſon poſte, ou pendant que les autres faiſoient les fautes, c'eſtoit á luy de ſouffrir la honte.*

honte. When I told him that was too hard an Expreſſion, and that no body thought he deſerv'd, he repeated it again, and ſaid, It muſt be ſo in the Opinion of all the World, but only ſome few, who knew the inſide of the buſineſs. That he ſaw no remedy for it with the preſent Conduct of *Spain*, nor with ſuch men as they employ'd in *Flanders:* That ſome of them were loath to venture the Army, and ſome as loath to venture themſelves, and others knew not how to do either *á propos:* That I might very well think however, that he had no mind to ſit down with the Diſgrace of ſuch a Campaign, and that if the *Spaniards* could but garriſon their Towns ſo as to make any defence in form, he would yet hope he might have his revenge another year, by truſting to no Army but his own.

When I asked whether he thought the States were in Humour, or the Country in Condition to go on with the War, he ſaid, he would not diſſemble it, they had a horrible mind to the Peace, but ſo they had for theſe two laſt years, that they were however able to go on with it, eſpecially if they were eaſed of their Subſidies to the Allies, and would be inſenſibly engaged in it, as they had been theſe two laſt Campaigns, if they could not have a Peace with ſome honour and ſafety.

When

When I took notice of his little inclinations to any ſudden Peace, he ſaid, on the contrary, he had a mind to it, and that no Intereſts of his own ſhould delay it, but that he could not tell how to come by it; (which Words, I remember, he ſpoke in *Engliſh*) that he would deal plainly with me as to his own Thoughts, that tho' a Congreſs was neceſſary, yet he believ'd we could not hope to make a Peace here in leſs than about four years: That he was of Opinion, if your Majeſty would have it this Winter, you muſt make it your ſelf, by telling all the Parties upon what terms you expected, and thought reaſonable it ſhould be made: That if you would not do this, you muſt at leaſt employ more private Negotiations towards it, and firſt ſound *France* to the bottom, inſtead of ſounding him (the Prince); and this for two Reaſons: *Firſt*, Becauſe *France* was ſingle, and Maſter of their own Reſolutions, which he was not; and tho' he could anſwer for himſelf, yet he could not for thoſe he was engaged with. Next, Becauſe, if his Highneſs or *Spain* ſhould firſt declare themſelves upon the Conditions of a General Peace, *France* might very well make uſe of it towards breaking their Alliance, or the confidence of it, which they could not do towards *France*, which had no other Allie but the *Swede*, and him but very little conſidered, either in the Peace or the War.

When

When I would have enter'd into ſome Diſcourſe of Conditions the moſt apparent for the Peace, he ſaid, That upon the whole, he did not believe in the preſent Poſture of Affairs, *France* could poſſibly be brought to ſuch Terms as it was poſſible for the Allies to accept; nor was it reaſonable to think or to hope they ſhould, after ſuch a Campaign as had paſs'd in *Flanders*. But it was not yet ended in *Alſace*, nor perhaps in *Flanders* neither: For tho' he would not go into the Field again to do nothing, yet if there ſhould happen a good Occaſion, he would be gone again at half an hours warning: That however this Campaign ſhould end with *France*, 'twas like to paſs well enough againſt the *Swedes*; and as they had already eighteen thouſand men of the *Luneburgh* and *Munſter* Troops by the Conqueſt of *Bremen*; ſo they hoped to have thirty thouſand more next Campaign, if the *Swedes* were beaten out of *Pomerania*, which was not unlikely yet before the Year ended.

He ſaid we muſt talk over this Matter again when the Campaign was done, and that we ſhould then know better what to ſay upon it: That it would be neceſſary for me to come ſometimes to the *Hague*, and to that end adviſed me to get leave to do it whenever I ſaw occaſion: I told his Highneſs

neſs that I had it already, and ſhould make uſe of it whenever his Highneſs thought it neceſſary, and would let me know it, as well as upon any other occaſions of your Majeſty's Service there.

I remember no more to trouble your Majeſty with out of all our Diſcourſes upon this Matter. There was one thing more his Highneſs ſaid, which I think will be fit to tell your Majeſty, tho' he might not intend it. He told me he had receiv'd a Letter from your Majeſty, in anſwer to that he ſent by my Wife, that you had refus'd him leave to go over into *England* before the Peace, and with Terms ſomething hardiſh (which were his *Engliſh* Words) that he thought it was fit to take an Anſwer when your Majeſty gave it him; and therefore he ſhould trouble you no more about it: That your Majeſty beſt knew when you thought was a fit time for him to do it, and he ſuppos'd would let him know it, ſince it ſeems he did not himſelf.

I cannot but add one word of an Advice of another kind, and from another hand, becauſe it was new to me, and look'd conſiderable. Upon Diſcourſe with *Count Oxenſterne*, about the Court of *Vienna* (where he had been lately Ambaſſador) he told me the Emperor was ſo infirm, that it was not believed he could ever have Children that would

would live; that this being foreſeen, he found among the Miniſters there, that it was reſolved, in caſe of his dying without Sons, to leave the whole Succeſſion of the *Dutchy* of *Auſtria*, and its Dependances to the Duke of *Lorrain*, with condition to marry the Emperor's Siſter, and by this means to make way for his being Emperor, which he did not believe there would be any difficulty in, eſpecially when ſuch an Accident ſhould find him in the Head of the Imperial Army.

I humbly beg your Majeſty's Pardon for this long Interruption, and your acceptance of that humble and hearty Devotion wherewith I am, and ſhall be ever,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt

Loyal and moſt Obedient

Subject and Servant

W. Temple.

To

To the KING.

Nimeguen, Octob. 19th. S. N. 1676.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

I Cannot better acknowledge the honour of receiving your Majeſty's particular Commands, than by aſſuring your Majeſty of the infinite ſatisfaction I ſhall have in obeying them. I do not remember that the Reflections I made upon my laſt Diſcourſe with the Prince, went ſo far as what your Majeſty is pleaſed to make upon them in your laſt Letter. I did not conclude upon all which paſt, that he had a mind to continue the War, but rather, that he was unreſolved between the Deſires of repairing his Honour by another Campaign, and the Fears of being more in ſuch Company as he is joined with in *Flanders*. But tho' his Diſpoſitions ſeemed doubtful, yet his Judgment was indeed very poſitive that the Peace would not be made this Winter, unleſs your Majeſty undertook it by advancing ſome Propoſitions of your own towards it: He concluded that we ſhould talk it over again, after the Campaign ſhould be ended

ended on all ſides : And indeed the Winter Quarters of the Imperial Armies, where-ever they fall, will open the Proſpect into the next Years Events, more than any thing that has paſs'd this Summer. For if the *French* can maintain a defenſive War in *Alſace*, another Campaign, I believe, they will take St. *Omer*, *Cambray*, or *Valenciennes*, (if not two or all of them) in ſpight of all the *Dutch* and *Spaniſh* Forces will be able to do in *Flanders*, unleſs a very great change happen in their Conduct or Fortune. But if the *German* Armys ſhould enter into *France*, that Crown may perhaps have work enough on that ſide, and be thereby forced to call away ſo many of their Troops out of *Flanders*, as to leave the Prince of *Orange* an eaſie Campaign there. This I find the *French* Ambaſſadors here apprehend, in caſe the *Swede* be wholly beaten out of *Germany* this Seaſon, and the Alliance continues united and vigorous another Year. And *Monſieur Beverning* after all his *Fanfares* about a ſeparate Peace (which your Majeſty will meet with in two of our joint Letters by the laſt and this Ordinary) ſeems too publick and affected to mean much more, than to induce the Emperor into thoſe meaſures : For after he had talked himſelf ſober with me upon that whole Subject, he ſaid at laſt in plain terms,

that if the *Germans* would let *Briſac* alone, and enter into *France* next Spring, the States would not make the Peace this Year; and that they had already taken their Meaſures, and found they could go on with the War another Campaign, and with the ſame Forces they had this laſt, or ſomething greater, if there were a good Occaſion.

He intends to go again into *Holland*, about the 10*th* of next Month, when the next Aſſembly will be of the States of *Holland*, at which time the Counſels and Meaſures are uſually taken for the enſuing Year, and always for the chief Expence of it, as near as it can be then foreſeen: I hope my Lord *Berkeley* will by that time be here, and then I ſhall take an occaſion of going again to the Prince, and ſhall, I ſuppoſe, be able at ſo critical a time to make a clearer Judgment of what your Majeſty may hope from him, as to the Peace; and neglect no Endeavours to give his Highneſs thoſe Impreſſions which are not only agreeable with your Majeſty's Intentions, but in my Opinion, with his own Intereſts too, in the Poſture he ſtands with Friends and Enemies, both at home and abroad. I ſhall then give your Majeſty a full Account of what Diſpoſitions or Motions I find at the

Hague,

Hague, which the *French* Ambaſſadors ſay upon all Occaſions, muſt chiefly govern what paſſes here. In the mean time, I ſhall only beg your Majeſty's Pardon for this Interruption, and your Juſtice in believing me what I ſhall ever be with the greateſt Devotion and Truth,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt

Loyal and moſt

Obedient Subject

and Servant.

W. Temple

To the Prince of *Orange.*

Nimeguen, Octob. 31*ſt.* S. N. 1676.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs,

I Receiv'd lately a Letter from his Majeſty, dated at *Newmarket* the 8*th* of this Month, and in anſwer to the Account I gave him of your Highneſs's Diſcourſes with me at *Soeſdyke*, and your Opinions, that his Majeſty propoſing the Terms of a Peace to the Parties, will be the only way of making it. His Majeſty ſays upon it, that he doubts your Highneſs has a mind to continue the War, which he is ſorry for; becauſe, as it is conducted by your Allies, he fears you will not find your Account in it, and aſſures me, one of the great Motives he has for the Peace, is the belief that your Highneſs will be the better for it; that it has ever been his Endeavour, and is ſo ſtill, to oblige *France* to declare it ſelf to him upon what Terms they will be content to make the Peace; but if they will not, it muſt take the Forms which the Congreſs here will give it; and if that will not bring it to paſs, his Majeſty muſt content himſelf with having done what he could towards

wards it according to the Figure he has taken of the Common Mediator. Upon another Subject his Majeſty ſays, he is glad to underſtand from me, that your Highneſs is of opinion, you muſt learn from his Majeſty the time of your going over into *England*, which is not yet proper for it; but when it ſhall be ſo, he ſhall be as glad to ſee you, as you can with your ſelf.

I have given your Highneſs the King's own Words in what I have written, between two Marks, and intended to have given you a larger Account of it my ſelf at the *Hague* before this, if my Lord *Berkeley* had come hither ſo ſoon as we were made believe; it cannot be long before he arrives; and it will not be long after, I hope, before I ſhall have the honour of kiſſing your Highneſs's Hands; and ending the Diſcourſe, we began at *Soeſdyke*. In the mean time I am with great Thanks to acknowledge the very great Favour which my Wife ſays your Highneſs is pleaſed to offer, of lodging me at the *Hague*, and may very well take your Highneſs at your Word, if the Weather, and my Health continue ill as they have been of late.

I ſend your H^neſs incloſed a Letter I received from Mr. *Sidney*, which came not ſooner, becauſe, as I found by another he had great Diſputes with his Father before he

would give this Anſwer. I am very ſorry for it; but ſince you find the Lieutenant Collonel ſo very capable, I hope it will be no loſs. In caſe he has the Regiment, Major *Archer* has begg'd of me to mention him to your Highneſs, for the Lieutenant Collonel's Place, which I ſhould not do, but that I remember your Highneſs expreſs'd a very good Opinion of him; and I find by him, that he cannot (as he ſays) poſſibly live on the Regiment he is with *Fenwick* and *Weaſly*. I hear this laſt is endeavouring to turn out one Captain *Knight*, for having been a Friend to Major *Archer* in ſome of their Quarrels; I humbly beg your Highneſs to ſuſpend any ſuch Reſolution till I have the honour of ſeeing you. I am ever with perfect Truth and Devotion,

SIR,

Your Highneſs's moſt

Obedient and moſt

Humble Servant.

W. Temple.

To

To Mr. Secretary *Williamſon.*

Hague, Jan. 5th. S. N. 1677.

SIR,

SInce my laſt, the Day after my Arrival here, I endeavoured to ſpeak with the Penſioner upon thoſe Matters relating to this Ambaſſy, and ſtill remaining without any Anſwer, or at leaſt, Diſpatch. After having twice excuſed himſelf upon his Indiſpoſition, at length he gave me an Hour; and I found him in the Poſture of a Sick Man, complaining of *une fievre lente*, and Weakneſs upon the loſs of very much Blood; which he ſaid, was all *Sanguis aduſtus*. Which I repeat from his own Mouth, as Expreſſions that compared to other Circumſtances of our Converſation, made me conclude his Illneſs to be at leaſt as much of Mind as of Body; and derived, perhaps, from the Fatigue and Chagrin of his Buſineſs, rather than his Ill Conſtitution, though ſomething of that be natural to him.

I first complained of the States Delay not only in the Satisfaction, but even in the Answer due to two of his Majesty's Letters, upon the Business of the three *Scotch* Ministers, which I took to be clear in the Words of the Treaty, and subject to no Dispute or Evasion: He confess'd it might look like a Neglect in the States, not to answer the Letters they had received from his Majesty; but they had delayed it, in hopes his Majesty might have been satisfy'd with the Reasons their Ambassadors in *England* had been charged to represent on that Subject; and they were unwilling it should appear by their Letter, either that his Majesty demanded a thing of them by virtue of a Treaty, which they did not think the Treaty obliged them to; or that any of the King's Subjects, who were, or should be hereafter banished by his Majesty, might from their Letter take occasion to hope for Refuge in these Countries. But if I would enter into the Debate of this Matter at a Conference with the States Commissioners, and should not be satisfy'd with their Reasons, but desire them in Writing, they would either give them me to represent to his Majesty, or else they would comprehend them in a Letter to his Majesty, in answer of those they had received from him.

I said,

I ſaid I was reſolved to enter upon this Matter, and ſee the bottom of it while I was here; but hoped they would upon it be ſo far Satisfied with the Clearneſs of the Caſe, as to anſwer his Maieſty's Demand, rather by Compliance than Reaſons: And ſo we reſolved to attend two or three days, in hopes he might at that time aſſiſt at the Conference ſince he deſired it; and I knew very well, nothing would be done to any purpoſe without it. I found however that the Streſs of their Pretentions will lye in the Difference between Perſons Baniſhed, and either Rebels or Fugitives who are named in the Articles. For the Penſioner thinks his Majeſty may declare any of his Subjects Rebels or Fugitives; and ſuch a Declaration is enough (being ſignified to the States) to ground the Demand now made. But when a Prince or State baniſheth any Man, they thereby declare him to be a Subject no longer; and have not afterwards Power to declare him Rebel or Fugitive, eſpecially if he have offered himſelf to the Law; as two of theſe Men, he ſaid did; and did not flye their Country, but by Sentence were forced to do it: But the Iſſue of this Matter I muſt refer to our Conference; as likewiſe that of the *Dort* Company, and the Ships *Thomas* and *John*, which were recommended in your laſt to my Care.

When

When theſe Diſcourſes had paſt; the Penſioner asked me whether I had brought them the Peace from *Nimeguen*: And I replyed, ſince he was ſo ignorant of what had paſſed there; I would tell him, that they had carried their Matters there *en habiles gens*: That to bring their Allies to the Congreſs, they had pretended to treat by the firſt of *November*, whether they came or no. That after the day, they had found fault with the Powers; offered at new; made the Mediators courſe from one to t'other; ſpun out two Months time in theſe Paces, and thereby were gotten in ſight of both *Spaniſh* and *Imperial* Miniſters, which I ſuppoſed was the thing they always intended.

He anſwered me with ſomething in his Face both ſerious and ſad. That, either I did not know the Courſe of their Affairs here, ſince I left the *Hague*; or elſe I would not ſeem to know them. That they deſired the Peace from their Hearts, and not only ſo, but thought it abſolutely neceſſary. That they would certainly have entred into the Treaty, if the *French* had either brought Powers in Form to be admitted, or obliged themſelves to procure new ones. I ſaid, I believed him, and that they could have found no better way to bring their Allies to the Congreſs.

He

He replyed; *je vous diray donc encore, que nous n'inſiſterons pas ſur une paix ſelon les pretenſions de nos Alliès, et ne vous reponds pas que nous ne la ferons mème ſeparée.* I ſaid, it was at leaſt a Matter of that Moment that I believed they would think of it before they did it.

With this he drew his Chair up cloſer to me; and begun with great Earneſtneſs a very long Diſcourſe upon this whole Matter: Saying firſt, that they had thought enough of it already; and for his Part, he was grown by thinking much, to conclude it was without Remedy. That they had great Obligations to *Spain* for entring into the War to ſave this Country; but therein to ſave *Flanders* too: But they had made no ill Return by continuing the War now three years only for the Intereſts of *Spain*; ſince there remained nothing of Conſequence between *France* and them: That they had beſides, engaged to carry it on this following Year, with the ſame number of Forces they did the laſt; and ſo they would, if their Allies had performed their Parts: But for *Spain*, they took no care but only to let them ſee they were reſolved to periſh: That they ſent their Fleets home from *Sicily* without any of the Payments agreed for, and left them to be pay'd by the States here at their Arrival. That

not

not a Peny could be got of 300000 Guilders they owed them for Carriages and Proviſions the laſt Campaign, and which was deſigned for their Magazines in *Flanders* againſt the next. That they had repreſented to *Spain* the abſolute neceſſity of keeping ſo many Forces in *Flanders* as would defend their Towns, while the Prince took the Field; which he was content to do with the Army of this State: But not a word of Anſwer. That they had then deſired *Spain* to receive ſo many of the Forces of their Allies, as might ſerve to defend their Places; but inſtead of this, they drove them out of their Country. That for the Emperor, they had always told him, unleſs his Army would march into *France*, or give a Battle; *Flanders* could not be defended laſt Year, nor this next; unleſs his Forces took up their Winter Quarters in *Alſatia*, or that ſide of the *Rhine*. But at *Vienna*, they conſidered *Flanders* as much as the *Dutch* do *Hungary*: And becauſe the *Imperial* Officers could make greater Advantages of Winter Quarters in *Germany*, than in ſuch a haraſſed Country as *Alſatia*; their Armies muſt return this Winter, and thereby loſe all the Advantages that might have been made of the laſt Campaign. That for want of Magazines in *Flanders*, two

or

or three of the beſt Frontier Towns would be loſt next year before the Imperialiſts could poſſibly take the Field; and if *Cambray*, *Valencienne*, and *Mons* were gone, all the reſt would certainly revolt; conſidering the Miſeries they had already ſuffered, and muſt ſtill by a longer War. That either the Prince could not be ſoon enough in the Field to prevent it, or elſe he would not be able to ſubſiſt for want of Magazines, and the Country's being like to be deſerted and waſt by this Buſineſs of Contributions unſettled: Or elſe he would not be ſtrong enough to venture a Battle or raiſe a Siege; conſidering how weak the *Spaniards* would be, how poorly their Towns would be defended, and how ſtrong *France* would come on that Side into the Field, while they had no Enemy upon the *Rhine*. That the Prince's Friends could never ſuffer him to go into the Field, only to ſee Towns taken under his Noſe, and perhaps the whole Country loſt while he was expected to defend it, and rendred uncapable of doing it by the Faults of the *Spaniards*; who yet would lay it to his Charge, and be the firſt to reproach him: Which would be done likewiſe by his Enemies at home, and Ill-willers abroad; who would be glad of the Occaſion.

In

In the mean time, from *France* they could have whatever Conditions they pretended, either as to the reſtoring of *Maſtricht*, or the *Reglement* of Commerce, or the Advantages of the Prince; and as to this laſt, all they could deſire. That they had Letters every Week from the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades* upon this Subject; and from other Hands: And for his own part, though he ſhould fall into it with Regret, yet he did not ſee what elſe was to be done; and he did not know one Man in *Holland* that was not of the ſame Mind.

This long Diſcourſe ended with ſaying, that he did not talk to me like an Ambaſſador but a Friend, and one whoſe Opinion he eſteemed. That he diſcovered to me *leur fort et leur foible*; and would be glad to know what elſe they thought they could do *dans l'accablement de cet Etat par une ſi longue guerre*, and all the Circumſtances that now attend it both from their Friends and their Enemies.

I gave him Thanks for the Confidence he expreſs'd towards me; but deſired to be excuſed for giving my Council or Opinion to a Perſon who was ſo able to take Meaſures for the State and for Himſelf. But I deſired to know what he reckoned would become of *Flanders* after this State had made a ſeperate Peace. He replyed, that

that it would be loſt either in one Summer or two; but more probably in one: For he believed the Towns of *Cambray*, *Valenciennes*, *Namur*, and *Mons*, might be taken in one Campaign; or if *Valenciennes* were only taken on that Side, *Cambray* would be out of care, and muſt fall of it ſelf. That after this, none of the great Towns would offer at defending themſelves, unleſs it were *Antwerp*; and for that perhaps ſome Meaſures might be taken with *France*.

I asked him how he reckoned this State was to live with *France* after *Flanders* was wholly loſt; and whether he thought it would not be perfectly at Diſcretion.

He ſaid if they could hope to ſave *Flanders* by continuing the War, they would not think of a ſeperate Peace: But if they ſaw it muſt be loſt by one as well as t'other, they thought it beſt by the laſt; which would not only leſs exhauſt the State, but be leſs Diſhonour to the Prince too. That after *Flanders* was loſt, they would live ſo with *France*; that they ſhould find it more for their Profit to preſerve this State than to deſtroy it. That he knew very well, it was not a Thing to be choſen, but they ſhould be forced to it as Men are ſometimes to deſperate Remedies. That they had long hoped ſome Reſſource

from

from better Conduct in the *Spaniſh* Affairs. That they had believed ſome Impreſſions of the *German* Army in *France* it ſelf, might have brought the Buſineſs *à un accommodement raiſonable.* That he for his own part had ever believed *England* it ſelf would cry *halte* at one Step or other; and if they would be content to ſee half *Flanders* loſt, yet they would not ſee it all; and the ſame of *Sicily.* That the King had the Peace in his Hands for theſe two Years paſt; and might have made it when he pleaſed, and upon what Conditions he thought fit. That for their parts, *Monſieur van Beuninghen* had deſired his Majeſty to ſay whatever he would have in it; and that this State would endeavour it upon any Terms his Majeſty propoſed: But that he could never get one word of Anſwer. That he had full Power to make any ſort of Alliance with his Majeſty that he deſired; but nothing of that neither. That he confeſſed it was true, *cuncta prius tentanda;* but he found at length it was *immedicabile Vulnus*: And he ſaw nothing left for them to do but a ſeparate Peace. That he underſtood very well, what I meant by asking how they were to live with *France* after the loſs of *Flanders*; but he had caſt up that too. That firſt; *La viſee de la France ſera plûtôt ſur l' Allemagne*

ou

ou ſur l' Italie, que ſur eux. That in the next place, he knew it would not be their Intereſt to Conquer or Deſtroy this State, but could make better Uſes by preſerving it in a Dependance upon them. That the King had ſeen their Country, and underſtood it ſo; and had ſaid upon all Occaſions ſince, that he had rather have them for his Friends than his Subjects. That for their Religion, which he had as much at Heart as any Man; he did not fear any thing in that from *France* neither: That this King was not *ſi coiffé de ſa Religion*, as thereby to loſe any Intereſts of his State; and he knew very well that any Force or Change in Religion here, would quickly deſtroy the Trade; and thereby the Sea Forces of this Country, which he might make better uſe of than if it were left *un grand Marêcage*. But at laſt, if their State muſt fall in four and twenty Hours, 'twere better for them to defer it to the laſt; and that it ſhould happen at Night rather than at Noon.

All this was Diſcourſed with ſo much Earneſtneſs, that I was afraid it had done him hurt; and indeed it left him not in Condition or Breath to go on with a longer Converſation. And ſo having ſaid, it was not a Matter to be reſolved between us two; and that I wiſh'd him Health e-

nough to go through the Thoughts and Buſineſs of ſo great a Conjuncture; I left him.

The next Morning I went to the Prince: And after ſome common Talk; I told him I had ſeen the Penſioner, and asked whether his Highneſs knew what Diſcourſe had paſs'd between us. He ſaid no; he had not ſeen him ſince; and asked me what it was. I repeated ſeveral Heads of it, and ſaid; it all concluded in the neceſſity of this State's making a ſeperate Peace: And that he ſaid there was not one Man in *Holland* againſt it. The Prince interrupted me and ſaid; Yes, I am ſure I know one, and that is my ſelf; and I will hinder it as long as I can: But if any thing ſhould happen to me, they would do it in two days time. I asked his Highneſs, whether he was of the Penſioner's Opinion in what was likely to happen next Year in *Flanders*. He ſaid the Appearances were ill; but Campaigns did not always end as they began: That ſome Accidents might happen which no Man could foreſee; and if a Battle ſhould be given, none could anſwer for the Event. After this, and two or three little Things he ſaid about our Indifference in what became either of the Peace or of *Flanders*: His Highneſs roſe up as if he did not care

for

for going on further with the Diſcourſe; and ſo broke it off.

I have been very exact in the Account of all theſe Paſſages, the Introductions to them, and often the very Words (which I have marked) becauſe I believe them the true Repreſentations of the preſent Diſpoſitions here in this Matter of a ſeperate Peace: That is, the People in general, the Towns, the States, are all bent upon it; from an extream Diſlike of their Allies Conduct, both in the Treaty and the War. But the Prince alone, upon whoſe Honour the Allies have wholly relyed in all their Negotiations with this State, is not yet able to digeſt it; and being equally apprehenſive of the Diſhonour may befall him, either by ſeperating from his Allies by a Peace; or purſuing the War in Conjunction with *Spain* (whoſe Weakneſs and ill Conduct will make the Faults, of which he muſt in common Opinion bear the Blame.) He is certainly at this time moſt extreamly deſirous of a general Peace; and will not only goe into it, in ſuch ways as his Majeſty ſhall think the moſt expedient; but will take it the Kindlyeſt in the World, if his Majeſty ſhould think fit to uſe his Offices with *France*, ſo as to bring it about with Honour to his Highneſs, in ſome moderate Satisfaction to his Allies.

If his Majeſty interpoſeth no further than by the bare and formal Offices of his Mediation at the Place of Treaty, and the *Auſtrians* hold off as they have hitherto done. I ſuppoſe the *French* and *Dutch* Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*, will fall into ſeperate and perhaps private Negotiations of the Differences between them; which I gueſs (from the Diſpoſitions I can obſerve on both Sides) will be very ſoon and eaſily adjuſted: And then the *Dutch* will be ready to clap up a ſeperate Peace in two days time, whenever they grow more out of patience at the Slowneſs and Unſincereneſs of their Allies in the general Treaty; or more apprehenſive of Diſhonour and ill Succeſs in the War. Or when theſe or any other Circumſtances ſhall bring the Prince to fall into the ſame Opinion with the States upon this Matter:

Monſieur *Colbert* hath in many and particular Diſcourſes, beſides others from the Mareſchal *d' Eſtrades*; told me ſo much of their Deſires to enter into this Matter of ſeperate Negotiations and Meaſures with the Prince and this State; of the eaſineſs they ſhould find in Points of Commerce, and Advantages his Highneſs ſhould receive by it to himſelf; both in the Treaty, and in the courſe of the King their Maſter's Friendſhip hereafter; that I ſup-

poſe

poſe there can occur no Difficulty of that Side, whenever it grows full ripe on this. And therefore I preſume, the knowledg of all theſe Circumſtances would be neceſſary for his Majeſty's information, in ſo great and ſo nice a Conjuncture; and more particularly ſo, for his Inſtructions to us as to our Conduct at *Nimeguen*, whenever we meet with ſuch Motions there as are likely to ariſe from ſuch Diſpoſitions here.

I beg your Pardon for ſo long a Trouble, and one word if you pleaſe of the incloſed by laſt Poſt from hence, being delivered to his Majeſty, and your belief of my being always,

SIR,

Your moſt Faithful

humble Servant.

To Mr. Secretary *Coventry.*

Hague, Jan. 8th. S. N. 1677.

SIR,

I Am to acknowledg the Honour of one from you of the *5th* paſt; ſince which time I found it neceſſary for me to make a Turn hither; both from a Letter of the Prince which deſired it, and ſome Buſineſs relating to this Embaſſy that required a Diſpatch; and alſo that in ſuch a Conjuncture I might be perfectly informed how the Game was like to play: Which could be known no where but here, nor indeed by other Hands than thoſe I deal with; which are the Prince and the Penſioner. You will have known from my Diſpatch laſt Ordinary, all I am like to know upon the Subject of a general or ſeperate Peace: And I find by Sir *Lyonel Jenkins* his Letter this day to me, that he is fallen upon the Scent of this laſt at *Nimeguen*, ſince I came away; and likewiſe that he has received ſome Letters from Court ſince I left him; which looks as if you had apprehended it there already, and

and given ſome Orders in a late Letter about our Conduct in the Caſe by way of Proteſtation; which he ſeems much in pain about, and deſires my help in, without having ſent me any Copy of Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*'s Letter upon that Subject: So that I can make no Judgment at all of the Thing how it is given us in charge. But if it ſhould be as I apprehend by his Letter, that in caſe we find a ſeperate Peace between *France* and *Holland*, concluding or concluded at *Nimeguen* without our Communication, we ſhould proteſt publickly againſt it in his Majeſty's Name. I do not well underſtand to what purpoſe ſuch a thing can be intended. If we diſlike the Thing, and it appear to Sanguine Men at Court, as dangerous as to Melancholly Men in the Country, we may endeavour to prevent it; but if it be once concluded, our Proteſtations can in my opinion, ſerve only to irritate the Parties, and bind them faſter together by the apprehenſion of our being angry at them both, and at their Conjunction. Nor can I well ſee either what Ground ſuch a Proteſtation can have, any more than what Effect. For the Parties have not obliged themſelves to his Majeſty, upon his Mediation of a general Peace; either that they will not treat with-

out his Mediation, nor ſeperately; or if they had, the ſame Intereſts that force them to break through ſo many Obligations to their Allies, would make them as bold with thoſe to a Mediator. Beſides, I obſerved in Monſieur *Colbert*'s Exceptions to our Form of Powers; he ſaid, there was one eſſential Default in the very Diſpoſitive; which was the omiſſion of that Clauſe, That they might treat with the adverſe Miniſters, either with or without the Intervention of the Mediators; and ſo we may certainly reckon they will do when Intereſt leads them to it.

I am forced to trouble you with this Diſcourſe, having received this Letter from Sir *Lyonel Jenkins* ſince I cloſed mine this Night to Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*. I know not whether what I have ſaid be at all to the purpoſe, becauſe 'tis very likely I may have miſapprehended the late Inſtructions ſent us over, which are mentioned very ſhort in my Colleague's Letter to me. Beſides, I am the apter to think I may be miſtaken; becauſe I remember, upon our deſiring Inſtructions two months ſince, how to conduct our ſelves in caſe of ſeperate Treaties; we had no Anſwer given us upon it. And I will

tell

tell you, that not only the Allies are of opinion that we would promote it; but the Prince himself seems to believe we would be glad of it; though I assure him, all our Instructions run quite contrary, and impower us only to perform our Offices towards the general Peace.

I am ever with the Esteem and Truth that become me,

SIR,

Your &c.

To

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Jan. 8th. S. N. 1677.

My LORD,

UPON the Incident of a Letter juſt now from my Colleague Sir *Lyonel Jenkins*, concerning ſome Inſtructions he had receiv'd ſince I left him, in relation to a ſeparate Peace; I thought it neceſſary to write the Incloſed to Mr. Secretary *Coventry*, having already cloſed my Pacquet to Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*; and our Inſtructions commanding us to correſpond with the Secretary's of State; ſo as all Advices of importance are neceſſarily addreſſed to one of them for our Diſcharge.

However, I thought what I had written fit to be preſented to your Lordſhip as early as I could, in hopes you will give your Hand towards our full Inſtructions in his Majeſty's Mind upon this Matter. For my part, if I apprehend right what Sir *Lyonel Jenkins* writes to me about a Proteſtation, I cannot underſtand the Drift of ſuch a Council, nor why one ſhould be angry when one hurts no body but ones ſelf. To prevent the Thing may be a wiſe and neceſſa-

ceſſary Counſel, and in which his Majeſty's Meaning ought to have been ſignified e arly where it was likely to be of moment to that end; but if the Thing ſhould be done, I cannot imagine either how to ground our Offence, or ſeek our Revenge, and it would be to ſtay till we are ſtruck, and then truſt to crying out. Whereas, for ought I know, it were better to anger either of the Parties before a ſeperate Peace, than both of them afterwards; and if we muſt ſtrain any Points of Courteſie with them, to do it rather by making a fair and g eneral Peace, than by complaining and proteſting againſt a ſeperate one.

I beg your Lordſhip's Pardon for this Trouble, and your Juſtice in believing me ever.

My LORD,

Your, &c.

To

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague, Jan. 12. S. N. 1677.

SIR,

I Have received the Honour of yours of the 26*th* paſt, with the Copy of another of the ſame Date to the Plenipotentiaries at *Nimeguen*; for which I humbly thank you. As to what concerns the Points depending here, I can add little more than what I writ laſt; but that I have received aſſurance that the States will give ſudden Order for returning of the Money, and Security given the Maſter of the *Thomas* and *John*, taken by a *Dutch* Man of War from a *Dunkirk* Caper; and this they will do upon the Aſſurance I give them (from his Majeſty's Letters) of the like Procedure on our ſide towards them in like Caſes.

All I have left, is the Affair of the Three *Scotch* Miniſters, which muſt be brought to a Conference; and that the Penſioner's Illneſs will not yet ſuffer him to aſſiſt at, ſince it muſt be at my Houſe, and he has not yet ſtirred abroad, but is ſomething better to day, ſo as to give me hopes it may be to

morrow

morrow, or *Thurſday*; if not, I will have it on *Friday* without him, and drive it as far as it will go. His Illneſs begins to be apprehended by many, being a continual, tho' ſlow Feavour, and would extreamly diſconcert the Meaſures of this State, if any thing of ill ſhould happen to him. *Don Emanuel de Lyra* who has abſented himſelf from his Poſt here for near three Months, upon the Shame of appearing without Money for the Fleet from *Sicily*, and that to *Denmark* laſt Year, and the want whereof would have endangered ſome Trouble at *Amſterdam*, if the Ships from *Sicily* had been able to come in before the Froſt, writes now word from *Bruſſels*, that he is preparing to come away immediately; and that he ſhall do it with leſs regret and ſhame, being poſſeſt of the Money due, *por el Mediterraneo y el Baltico, y ſin Gaſconado*: which are the Words of his Letter, and have ſo much Credit with the Prince and the States, that they take it for a thing done; and it was high time. The Prince tells me, He thinks the Remiſes come by laſt Ordinary to *Bruſſels*, are of two Millions and a half of Crowns, but that more is expected.

The *Daniſh* Miniſter preſſes very much for Money, Ships and Men here; but I believe they will go hard from this State; who pretend the *Danes* may content themſelve

ſelves with their new Conqueſts, and the *Spaniſh* Subſidies towards carrying on the War. I know not whether they reckon well: For, however the laſt Action in *Schonen* paſt, or however it be told, I look upon it as a very advantageous to the *Swedes*; not only by gaining their Point in the relief of *Malmoe*, but alſo by being left Maſters of the Field in that Province. And tho' the Loſs may have been equal on both ſides, or, perhaps, greater on the *Swedes*, yet I take that Crown to have much greater Reſſources than *Denmark*, both in Bodies of Men of their own Natives, and in the Moneys from *France*; whereas *Denmark* will find very hard to repair the loſs of their Foot in this Battel, without Levies from *Germany*, which will coſt more Money than they can well furniſh without the Subſidies agreed both from this State and *Spain*.

I intend to get away from hence as ſoon as poſſibly I can, upon the preſſing Inſtances made me from my Lord Ambaſſador *Jenkins*, as well as from *Monſieur Colbert* and *Beverning*; but chiefly from the great embarras that you will find fallen upon the Buſineſs of the Aſſembly, by the irregular Demarches of *Count Kinski*; whereof I have been this day acquainted by a Copy of the Joint-Letter that goes to you with this Ordinary; which if they proceed one Pace farther,

farther, as it ſeems he intends, muſt of neceſſity break all Communication between the *Imperial* and *French* Ambaſſadors, and conſequently give a ſtop to the Progreſs of any General Treaty. Sir *Lyonel Jenkins* preſſes me ſo earneſtly to give him my Advice by to morrow's Pacquet, what to do in caſe they receive a ſecond and more formal Notification from Count *Kinski* of his Arrival; in order to a ſecond Viſit of Ceremony, that I cannot avoid giving my Opinion upon it; ſince the Caſe is like to happen before he can receive Directions from you.

I think they are to uſe all Endeavours poſſible to divert Count *Kinski* from this Reſolution: Firſt, becauſe it is contrary to the Stile hitherto uſed by all Ambaſſadors in the Congreſs. Secondly, Becauſe our viſiting the *Count* a ſecond time in Form, will be to give him a new Honour, which has not been pretended by, or given to any other Ambaſſador. Thirdly, Becauſe upon this Practice the *French* will certainly make him no Viſit, as receiving from him but half the Honour which he will have done, not only to the Mediators, but to the Ambaſſadors of all the Allies, by two formal Notifications. Fourthly, Becauſe the Mediators have already declared to him as well as to the *French*, their own Opinion in the Caſe; and if any thing at all be allowed

lowed to a Mediator, it is regulating ſuch Matters of Form as theſe. My laſt Reaſon concerns the Honour of the Mediation, and ſo muſt be private among us; which is, that a Preference has been declaredly given to the Mediators by *Count Kinski* in the firſt Notification, which, it ſeems, is not like to be taken care of in the ſecond.

To gain this Point of *Count Kinski*, it will be perhaps neceſſary to employ the Offices of the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors, as well as the foregoing Reaſons; and poſſibly to tell him one of greater weight than all the reſt; which is, that if the Miniſters of *Auſtria* retard the Progreſs of the Aſſembly by any of theſe Motions, contrary to the uſual Stile and Form, it will be interpreted as a new and affected Delay; and the End of that will be to drive the *Dutch* into private Negotiations, or ſeperate Treaties; whereas the only way to keep them cloſe to a general Peace, were, for the *Auſtrians* to expreſs all Facility towards it that others have done, at leaſt, in the formal and preliminary Parts of it.

If by all theſe Reaſons and Perſuaſions, Count *Kinſki* will not be prevailed with, I think the Mediators ought to tell him plainly, that in caſe of a ſecond Notification, they cannot take notice of it, or make

him

him a ſecond Viſit in Form, without firſt receiving his Majeſty's Orders, and ſo attend your poſitive Directions upon the Account given you by this Ordinary.

In caſe Count *Kinski* will be prevailed with to content himſelf with the firſt Notifications and Viſits made him upon them; then, I ſuppoſe, the *French* and *Swedes* may be appeaſed upon receiving their Notifications ſo late; ſince Count *Kinski* pretends to have yet notified none but the Mediators, and to have receiv'd Viſits from the reſt without Notifications.

For my part, I ſee no other way out of this Wood; and if by Count *Kinski*'s Obſtinacy it muſt come to his Majeſty, I know not well what in that Caſe can be done, but to ſtick cloſe to the Stile already uſed in the Aſſembly; where no firſt Viſits have been diſtinguiſhed by Cognito or Incognito: Since a change made by his Majeſty in this Practice will not only break all Correſpondence or Viſits between the *Imperialiſts* and *French*, but will give an Offence from His Majeſty to the *French*, by giving a Point more to the Emperor than to their King; whereas they pretend to yield only Place to him, but no diſtinction of Rank.

I thought fit to trouble you with my Thoughts upon this Occaſion, as well as to tranſmit them to my Colleague at *Nime-*

guen, in regard they may poſſibly ſerve to give his Majeſty ſome little Light before the Reſolution be taken in it. And I will preſume to add one Conſideration more upon the other Embarras already fallen out between us and the *Brandenburgh* Ambaſſadors, wherein it ſeems his Majeſty has not yet interpoſed his Judgment; the Allegations on either ſide are ſo blank, contrary one to another, that it is difficult to determine them; tho' the Teſtimony of *Monſieur Courtin*, *Oxenſtiern* and *Colbert*, in what they have themſelves practis'd, or ſeen practis'd ſo often, ſeems not eaſily to be ſcrupled. But the great ſtrength of the *Brandenburgh* Pretenſion will be the late Reſolution of the Emperor, dated, as I remember, *Nov.* 25, laſt paſt, in the Practice intended thereupon in their favour by the *Imperial* Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*, and thereupon poſſibly by the *Spaniſh* too. Now this new Conceſſion of the Emperor ſeems on one ſide to weaken the *Brandenburgh* Allegations as to former Practice (in which caſe there would be no need of this new Reſolution): But on the other ſide, it ſeems to induce other Kings to give them what the Emperor does, to whom they yield in point of place.

This only is to be conſidered, whether other Kings will take themſelves to be obli-

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ged by the Emperor's Stile to *German* Princes, since he may have an Interest in doing it toward the decision of what remains in question between him and other Kings. For tho' the Emperor pretends to be in rank above other Crowned Heads in *Christendom*, yet as I take it, the other Kings consider him only as the first of Kings, but not as of a Rank above them. But if the Emperor can procure by his Example, the Electors to be treated equally in all Points with the Crowned Heads, it will be an Advantage to his Pretensions, since there is certainly a difference of Rank between him and his Electors. In case *Spain* gives it by the Emperor's Example, and from Considerations of their present Confederacy, both with the Emperor and Princes of *Germany*; the Inducements will then be stronger for his Majesty to do it; and the Question remaining will only be, whether his Majesty should do it without Assurance that *France* and *Sueden* will do it too. For since his Majesty has already declared the Stile he intended the Electors, and grounded it upon the Precedents of *Munster* and other later Assemblies, if he should change his Stile upon the Example of the Emperor and *Spain* alone, it may seem a Partiality to the Opinion and Practice of those two Crowns, and against those of *France* and

Sweden: Whereas, his Majesty as Mediator, may be allowed not to change his own Stile, but upon a Change or Consent of all the other Crowned Heads.

But the Determination of these Matters must be given us by your Orders from his Majesty to us, and our Parts are no other but offering the small Lights we can towards his Majesty's better Information in these Cases.

Monsieur Colbert sends me word, that they have receiv'd their own *Pleinpouvoirs*, and in such a form, *Que Monsieur Beverning avouë luy même qu' il a tout cequ' il demandoit*. Which I take notice of as something that has pass'd between them without the Communication of my Colleague at *Nimeguen*, for as much as I observe by their Dispatches. And I doubt not but the Delays of the Allies will hasten *Monsieur Beverning* one way or other to enter the sooner and deeper into the Business, as far as lies particularly between *France* and them.

I took notice in the Duplicate of the last Letter to the Ambassadors at *Nimeguen*, of his Majesty's pleasure concerning Mr. *Hyde*, whom I have not yet seen, his Arrival happening at *Nimeguen* several Days after I left it. But I have given Order for the offering him all the Convenience of my House or Equipage during his stay there; and was

surpriz'd

ſurpriz'd with the News by this Days Letters, of his having already left *Nimeguen* upon his way hither, where I am now like to ſee him firſt.

I am,

SIR,

Tours, &c.

To the KING.

Hague, *Jan.* 15. S. N. 1677.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty.

I Know no better Acknowledgments I can make your Majeſty for ſo great an Honour as I received laſt Night by a Letter from your own hand, than in the beſt Obedience I can yield to the Commands it brought me; eſpecially that of giving your Majeſty with all ſpeed an Account of what Concluſions the Prince ſhould fall into upon the Subject of it. I have already had two Audiences from his Highneſs upon this occaſion, and diſcourſed over the whole

thing with the beſt Advantage I could, to what your Majeſty propoſes to your ſelf, and to the Prince with ſo great Reaſon in the Courſe of this Affair. I ſhall not trouble your Majeſty with the Particulars of theſe Converſations, but give you as ſhort and as cloſe as I can, his Highneſs's laſt Anſwer and Concluſion upon them; which is this, and to which he told me he would refer himſelf in the Letter he intends this Night to your Majeſty.

His Highneſs ſays, that this being the firſt time your Majeſty has pleaſed to tell him plainly the Conduct you would have him hold in the courſe of this Affair; he is reſolved to let your Majeſty ſee how great Eſteem he makes of this Confidence, by the moſt perfect Compliance with what your Majeſty propoſes as the firſt Step to be made in it; and by falling in with your Majeſty in the Concert of the reſt as far as he can poſſibly whenever he ſhall know more of your Mind. That their Ambaſſador ſhall receive Orders to give in a Memorial to your Majeſty in their Maſter's Name, deſiring and preſſing the Continuance and Enforcement of your Majeſty's Offices towards a General Peace; and chiefly upon this Ground, that they apprehend the loſs of *Flanders* without it; and that his Highneſs will ſo concert it here, that

this

this ſhall be in ſuch Terms as will reach your Majeſty's End, and ſhall be left for you to make what publick uſe of it you think fit. That, becauſe this cannot be prepared before the next Poſt, his Highneſs will this Night put into my Hands a Letter, ſigned by himſelf and the Penſioner, to *Monſieur van Beuningen*, giving him order to apply all his Diſcourſes in common and particular Converſations, to the ſame end; and even to receive Inſtructions from your Majeſty in what manner and Terms, in what Places, and to what Perſon chiefly to apply them. That this Letter being not to be communicated ſo much as to the Commiſſioners of Secret Affairs here, ſhall be incloſed by me to your Majeſty's own Hands, to uſe as you pleaſe; to give it privately your ſelf, or cauſe it to be delivered by any other Hand, and at ſuch time as you think fit: And his Highneſs queſtions not *Monſieur van Beuninghens* governing himſelf in this Affair entirely to your Majeſty's ſatisfaction. That for the Miniſters of their Allies, he cannot anſwer for them, becauſe he knows very well they have not a mind to the Peace, as his Highneſs and this State have. That it will be hard to make them ſay what they do not think of *Flanders* being loſt without the Peace; but that he knows *Don Emanuel de*

Lyra to be ſo reaſonable a Man, that his Highneſs hopes to bring him to your Opinion; that this Conduct is fitteſt for their Miniſters in *England*, and to prevail with him to write effectually to *Don Bernardo* upon it: And to this end, the Prince told me, he would write to *Don Emanuel de Lyra*; that it would be abſolutely neceſſary for him to come immediately hither, and that at his arrival he would uſe his utmoſt Offices to diſpoſe him to it.

In all theſe Paces his Highneſs thinks he goes to the utmoſt Length your Majeſty can deſire; and indeed I could not think of any thing more to propoſe. But after all, he ſaid, he could not engage to go farther in the Endeavours of effecting the Peace, till he knew upon what Terms your Majeſty intended it: For, there are ſome that may be ſupported, and others that cannot; and ſuch as theſe, they will venture *le tout pour le tout* rather than agree to them. And therefore it would be neceſſary to know your Majeſty's Mind as ſoon as was poſſible.

I told his Highneſs, I would repreſent this to your Majeſty, but deſired him to conſider, that there might very well be three Weeks or a Months time between your Majeſty's knowing his Mind firſt, and telling him your own upon it; or his Highneſs's knowing your Majeſty's firſt, and then

then telling you his upon it, and expecting afterwards a Return from your Majeſty. His Highneſs made a Pauſe at this and other Arguments I uſed towards prevailing with him to explain himſelf firſt; eſpecially that of my believing, your Majeſty would be more pleaſed with it, and take it as a piece of more Confidence from him. And having thought a while, he anſwered: That to ſhew your Majeſty how frankly he would deal with you, and with how much Confidence he deſired to live in all that paſſed between you: He would not make a Difficulty of explaining himſelf firſt, though he might have Reaſons to do it. That if your Majeſty had a mind to make a Peace, he thought you muſt do it upon the Foot of *Aix la Chapelle*; which you would have the more Ground for, becauſe you had both made and warranted it. That for Exchanges, he thought there ſhould be no other propoſed upon it, but only of *Aeth* and *Charleroy* for *Ayre* and St. *Omer*; which two laſt he thought imported a great deal more than the others, unleſs *France* would declare that they ended this War with the Proſpect of beginning another; by which they may get the reſt of *Flanders*. That this is all need paſs between *France* and *Spain*; and for what concerns the Emper-

or and this State: That the Emperor having taken *Philipsburgh* from the *French*, ſhould raſe it; and the *French* having taken *Maſtricht* from this State, ſhould raſe that too. And ſo this whole War ſhould paſs, *comme un tourbillon qui avoit enfin ceſſé, apres avoir menacé beaucoup, et fait fort peu de remuements au monde.*

He ſaid, for any other Intereſts that might be involved in this War; it would not be neceſſary now to ſay any thing of them: For if thus far were agreed on, the reſt muſt follow one way or other. That the Emperor and *Spain* had propoſed other Schemes to themſelves by the War, and therefore deſired the continuance of it, and would fall hardly into this; but if your Majeſty did, he would for his part do his utmoſt to effect it in concert with you, he hoped with them: And however deſired to know what you thought fit to be changed in this Scheme he had drawn of it. I obſerved two things to his Highneſs upon it. *Firſt*, that by it the County of *Burgundy* would be reſtored to *Spain*; with which Condition your Majeſty was abſolutely of Opinion when I laſt attended you; that *France* would not hear of a Peace: And I thought nothing had ſince paſs'd in the War to make you believe it leſs. *Secondly*, that after ſo many Conqueſts

queſts made, and ſo many expected by *France* at this time; it would be very hard to believe they could be brought to reſtore ſuch Acquiſitions as they were poſſeſs'd of, ſo very conſiderable, and without any Equivalent. He anſwered to the firſt; That *Burgundy* could not be left in the *French* Hands, without reſtitution of ſeveral other Towns in *Flanders*: Upon which ſo many Debates would ariſe, as muſt of neceſſity draw the Buſineſs into great Lengths, and leave all to the deciſion of another Campaign. But if your Majeſty perſiſted in your former Opinion upon that Matter, there was no way but finding out what was propoſed by *France*, as the Equivalent of *Burgundy* upon the Treaty of *Aix*, and regulate it accordingly.

Form the ſecond he ſaid I had reaſon, and he did not believe *France* would do it at this time upon other Motives than thoſe of your Majeſty's Interpoſition: But if they would not conſent to theſe Terms, or ſome other near them that your Majeſty ſhould think fit to propoſe; the War muſt go on, and God Almighty muſt decide it. That all the Allies beſide this State deſired nothing elſe; and the *Spaniards* believed if Don *John* came to the Head of their Affairs, as he might very well be by this time,

time, it would be a new World with them: And the truth was, that Crown had great *Reſſources*, how ill uſe ſoever they made of them. That one good Town well defended, or one Battle well fought would change the Buſineſs. That for his own part, he would give in all that could be with his Majeſty to bring about a general Peace, upon very moderate terms: But if *France* would make them inſupportable, they would venture all rather than receive them; and if they hoped the ill Conduct or ill Fortunes of their Allies would bring this State to make a ſeparate Peace, let the Penſioner or any elſe tell me what they pleaſed, they ſhould never do it whilſt he was alive. And he would ſay one thing further to me, that he had it in his power to hinder it: That if he dyed, he knew very well it would be made next day; but he did not trouble himſelf how the World was like to go when he was gone out of it; and perhaps we were the Perſons moſt concerned to look after that. This was the end of his Highneſs's Diſcourſe; and the laſt part of it was ſpoke with a good deal of Emotion: With which he roſe up; and I promiſed to repreſent the whole to your Majeſty in the trueſt Lines and Colours I could poſſibly (as I have done here,) and he told me he would

would come to me before this Poſt went away, and put the two Letters he promiſed into my Hands.

I moſt humbly beg your Majeſty's Pardon for a Trouble which ſhould not have been ſo long if it had not been neceſſary; and that you will pleaſe to accept that true and hearty Devotion wherewith I am, and ſhall be ever,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's &c.

To the KING.

Hague, Jan. 19th. S. N. 1677.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

I Was forced to give your Majeſty ſo large a Trouble by the laſt Ordinary, that I ſhould not have the Confidence to renew it ſo ſoon, but that I think it becomes me to let your Majeſty know; that upon the cloſure of my laſt, the Prince came to me and ſhewed me the Letter he had writ to Monſieur *Van Beuninghen*, asking me whether it would reach what your Majeſty

Majeſty deſired. I told his Highneſs what indeed I thought, that it was as full as could be wiſhed towards the governing of his private Converſation, but that your Majeſty expected ſomething that might be open too and above board; which I thought could not be otherwiſe done than by a Memorial from the Ambaſſador to your Majeſty in his Maſters name. The Prince ſaid, that though the Allies would take it ill, yet it ſhould be done; and Orders ſhould be ſent him to that Purpoſe by the next. After this the Prince told me, he had writ to your Majeſty, but not troubled you with the Detail of what had paſs'd between us, having referred your Majeſty wholly to me in that Point; and therefore he deſired to ſee my Letter; which he read, and ſaid it was not only what he ſaid and meant, but all he could ſay till he knew more of your Majeſty's Mind. In the mean time, that he looked upon this as the firſt Pace of Confidence between your Majeſty and him; That he hoped it would go on from this time, and prove fortunate to you both. He ſaid he ſhould go to *Soeſdyke* the latter end of this Week, and ſpend moſt of this Seaſon between that and *Dieren*; at either of which Places he ſhould be in my reach to *Nimeguen*, upon any thing that ſhould come to

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me from your Majeſty, and be neceſſary for him to know, and to take his Meaſures upon with me. I believe one Reaſon more is, that our Commerce there may paſs with leſs Noiſe than this here has done; which has given his Allies ſo great Allarms of my being here, to Negotiate a ſeparate Treaty with his Highneſs; that he would be glad to be out of the way, and avoid their Expoſtulations upon a Matter wherein tho' he does them no wrong, yet he makes them not of his Confidence as he has hitherto done; and is ſo hardned againſt thoſe Delicacies he uſed to have in that Point; that upon the Emperor's Miniſter entring very deep with him yeſterday upon the occaſion of my being here; he contented himſelf only to tell him, that he had yet heard nothing of a ſeparate Peace; but ſuch a Conduct as that of the Emperor's had been theſe two laſt years, might put this State upon deſperate Councils: And if *Flanders* muſt be loſt, it was but what the Emperor ſeemed to intend; and that if he, the Reſident pleaſed, he might write to *Vienna* what Anſwer he, the Prince, had made him.

I will add only, that as I doubt not, your Majeſty will have what Helps his Highneſs can give you on this Side, towards effecting the Peace; ſo I cannot

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imagine you ſhould meet with any Hindrances at home after theſe Inſtructions ſent to Monſieur *Van Beuninghen*; and after thoſe two Letters I writ ſince my coming hither, to the two Secretaries of State upon the Appearances of a ſeparate Peace; which I am confident were enough to convince all Men, that your Majeſty cannot endeavour any thing at this time of more Safety to your own Kingdoms as well as Glory abroad; than the ſudden Concluſion of a general one. I ſhall end this Trouble with the ſincere Profeſſions of that humble and hearty Devotion wherewith I am, and ſhall ever be,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's &c.

To the KING.

Hague, Jan. 22*d.* S. N. 1677.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

THE Prince deſired me this Morning to beg your Majeſty's Excuſe for thoſe Orders I mentioned to Monſieur *Van Beun-*

Beuninghen, being not yet gone; for putting in such a Memorial to your Majesty, as might reach the End you desired. The Delay has been occasioned by Returns of the Pensioner's Illness, and the extraordinary Sessions of the States of *Holland*: But his Highness assures me, it will not fail of going by next Post. He desired me at the same time to tell your Majesty, that he has had reason given him to believe, *France* will be content to give *Charleroy*, *Aeth*, *Oudenarde*, and *Courtray*, for *Aire* and St. *Omer*; so that he has been an ill Negotiator in what he last proposed; but hopes your Majesty is so much a Friend to the Preservation of *Flanders*, as to manage it to the best Advantage. I promised his Highness to say what he desired me to your Majesty, and in this manner to your own Hand, as he particularly desired it might be. But I must observe one thing I gathered from the Pensioner upon this Subject, which his Highness did not mention. Among many Overtures he has entertained me with from *France*, both general and particular to this State; he told me in a Visit to day, that *France* would be willing to give those four Towns for two, in case *Sueden* might be restored to all they had lost. I asked him what was to become of *Burgundy*, and he said; to

return to *Spain*, ſince the Propoſition was the Peace of *Aix la Chapelle*, with only that Exchange; and that he had it from a good Hand. I told both him, and afterwards the Prince, that I doubted it upon that Point of *Burgundy*. The Prince is of opinion, that if *France* be obſtinate in not reſtoring *Burgundy*, ſome Temper might be found in leaving it Neutral by Agreement. The Prince goes to morrow to *Soeſdyke*, and I ſhall return God willing, to *Nimeguen* the day after; His Highneſs having concerted upon any neceſſary Communications from your Majeſty, that I ſhall make a ſtep thither or to *Dieren*, which will be done without much noiſe for a Night or two. I have been forced in my own Juſtification, to give Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* this Night an Account of ſome Diſcourſes of Monſieur *Colbert*, which I ſhould not otherwiſe have mentioned. I hope your Majeſty will think fit ſuch Matters be private as they were intended, ſince at one time or other you may make uſe of that Diſpoſition in him and others to enter a little further into Confidences with me than with other Miniſters.

I am and ſhall be ever with perfect Devotion and Truth, SIR,

Your Majeſty's &c.

To Sir *Joseph Williamson.*

Hague, Jan. 22d. S. N. 1677.

SIR,

THE unuſual Length of my Conference with the States Deputies laſt *Thurſday*, left me no time to give you an Account of it that Poſt: And a Viſit I received to day from the Penſioner hath left me no Occaſion to trouble you with the Particulars of ſo long and warm Arguments as paſſed on both Sides upon it. I will only ſay, that the buſineſs of the three *Scotch* Miniſters hath been the hardeſt piece of Negotiation that I ever yet entred upon here; both from the particular Intereſts of the Towns and Province of *Holland*, and the general Eſteem they have, of *Mackaird* being a very quiet and pious Man; but chiefly from the firm Perſuaſion they have, of not being obliged to it by any bare Letter of his Majeſty, without any Sentence having paſs'd againſt them, by which they are adjudged Rebels or Fugitives: And on the contrary after a Sentence of Baniſhment againſt *Mackaird* and *Brown*, which they ſay is by

all Writers esteemed wholly to extinguish their Subjection, and consequently his Majesty's Right of declaring them Rebels after they are Banish'd, and become Subjects to another State. And they say, his Majesty would have no reason to take notice of any Letter from the States declaring any Man a Rebel, without a Copy of the Sentence pronounced against him to that purpose; the reciprocal whereof they expected likewise from his Majesty, upon these Occasions. But I found the King's Honour so far engaged in this Matter, by three several Letters which must have been publick; that I have left no sort of Arguments unessayed with the Prince, the Pensioner, and Deputies both of the Provinces and Towns, to procure his Majesty's Satisfaction, and make it pass for a thing so necessary to dispatch, that it hath taken up two long Debates in the States of *Holland* these two days past, though their meeting was intended but for five days, and for no other Business but the Levies of Monies necessary for the Campaign; yet this Morning the Pensioner came to give me hopes that it might be effected this very day; and at least the assurance that he would use his utmost Endeavours in it; and that the Dispatch should be made by a Letter from the States to his Majesty

Majeſty, which ſhould be put into my Hands to go by this very Ordinary; ſo that I will reckon upon it as a thing done, unleſs I ſee my ſelf forced to cloſe this Packet without it. I incloſe the States Reſolution about the Ship *Thomas* and *John*, recommended by his Majeſty's Letter, with the aſſurance of the like dealing on his Majeſty's Side, in the like Caſes. For the Merchant Adventurers of *Dort*, not only the Penſioner, but all the Deputies have renewed the former Aſſurances given me of its receiving a final Anſwer, next Ordinary Seſſion of the States of *Holland*; which is to be in *February*. And for the Ships taken upon pretence of Trading from Enemies to Enemies Port; the States have upon my Inſtances Written a ſecond Letter to the Admiralty of *Zealand*, to require their ſpeedy anſwer; upon which the Deputies promiſed their Endeavours to ſee Juſtice done in that Matter.

The Prince goeth early to morrow morning to *Soeſdyke*, where he intends to paſs as much of this Seaſon as the Affairs here will give him leave: And in caſe I receive the Satisfaction and Letter for his Majeſty, I expect this Night upon the Affair of the three *Scotchmen*; I ſhall begin my Journy towards *Nimeguen*, either to morrow morning or the day after, finding nothing

more that requires my Preſence here, and being much preſſed to my Return. In the mean time, having newly received yours of the *5th*, I find a Paragraph in it, which I think it will be neceſſary to anſwer by this Diſpatch, though I have not my Letters here, to which I might have ſome occaſion to refer.

You are pleaſed to ſay upon the Subject of a ſeparate Peace; that his Majeſty puts much weight upon what I ſaid in mine of the 5th, of Monſieur *Colbert*'s many and particular Diſcourſes to me, as well as the Mareſchal *d' Eſtrades*, of their Deſires to enter into this Matter of ſeparate Negotiations and Meaſures with the Prince and this State; which are the Words of my Letter: And that you being called upon in the Point, could not find any thing mentioned till now, or at leaſt, not ſo as that I had found cauſe to make that important Judgment I ſeemed in mine of the *5th*, to have made upon it; which was that I ſuppoſed there could occur no Difficulty on that Side, whenever it grows full ripe on the part of *Holland*.

I will confeſs in the firſt place; that I never had met with the leaſt Motive for this Suppoſition from any Diſcourſes of the *French* Ambaſſadors; yet I ſhould have been of the ſame Opinion, and never ye

me

met with any Man that doubted it; ſince the Conſequences of a ſeparate Peace between *France* and *Holland* muſt be the Loſs of *Flanders*, and the Dependance of this State upon *France*; which are too great Intereſts ever to be neglected by ſo Wiſe a Crown. But I ſhall now tell you what farther Reaſons I had to believe it, from the Diſcourſes I mentioned of the *French* Ambaſſadors, ſince you are pleaſed to put me upon it; and that which might before have paſſed for Vanity to trouble you with, is now grown neceſſary for my own Juſtification in what I writ to you upon this Subject.

You may pleaſe to remember what I writ to you upon my firſt particular Viſits with thoſe two Ambaſſadors, after my Arrival at *Nimeguen*; the Overtures and indeed Inſtances they made me apart of entring into particular Intelligences and Negotiations with me ſeparately from my Colleagues, and in order to cloſe any particular Meaſures that might be entered into between them and the Prince of *Orange*, by my Intervention. You acknowledged my private Letter to you upon that Subject; and ſaid, you had ſhewed it his Majeſty, but gave me no ſort of Reflection upon it, either from his Majeſty or your ſelf; by which I might know whether it

was fit for me or no to entertain or encourage any ſuch Commerce, diſtinct from my Colleagues: And thereupon I took up the reſolution to avoid it, and to continue the Anſwers I had firſt made upon ſuch Overtures, of my having nothing at all diſtinct from my Colleagues, either in his Majeſty's Inſtructions, or (as they called it) his *Secret*; or any thing that would bear me out in any ſeparate Negotiations with the Prince; or any other Steps than thoſe of a General Mediator. Notwithſtanding all this, Monſieur *Colbert* continued very particular Applications to me of this kind, but with Inſtances much more preſſing about the time of the Prince's return from the Campaign; and eſpecially in two very long and deſigned Converſations, which he grounded upon Letters he had received to that purpoſe from the King his Maſter. His Diſcourſes began with his moſt *Chriſtian* Majeſty's Eſteem of my being able to contribute more than any Man to the Peace; ſince it depended wholly upon the Prince of *Orange*, and I had more Acquaintance, and (as he would have it) Intereſt with his Highneſs than any other Miniſter. That nothing could be done of ſo much Service to the Prince, as inducing him to enter into particular Negotiations with the King his Maſter.

Maſter. That if they two could agree, the reſt of the Parties muſt fall into the Meaſures they would take: The Kindneſs the moſt *Chriſtian* King ever had for the Prince's Family, and Eſteem for his Perſon: The Eaſineſs he would ſhew in all that concerned particularly the Intereſts of his Highneſs and this State. And thereupon he preſſed me by all poſſible Arguments to undertake the bringing about this Intelligence between his Maſter and the Prince. When I excuſed my ſelf upon our Inſtructions being common to us all three, and impowering us only to Offices of a general Mediation: He told me, nothing elſe could make a general Peace; and that it had never been made at *Munſter*, but for the Duke of *Bavaria*'s acting in the whole Matter, by concert with *France* underhand; by which he received all the Advantages he could propoſe to himſelf: And the Prince of *Orange* ought to play the ſame Game in this preſent Treaty, and would certainly meet with the ſame Succeſs. Nor was it once, or twice, or thrice only that I have been entertained with theſe Diſcourſes; nor from themſelves alone, but from ſome of my Friends too upon their Suggeſtions; which was enough to give me ſuch a Supposition as you mention, that there could

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be no Difficulty on that Side, if the Thing ſhould once grow to be ripe on this. However, I ſuffered them to paſs as Matters only of particular Converſation, and not worth troubling you with; ſince it was like to have no Effect, by my excuſing my ſelf always from entring into any ſuch Intelligences without his Majeſty's expreſs Command, and by my finding no Appearances of the Prince of *Orange* giving into any ſuch Meaſures, though other ways have been made uſe of to give him the Impreſſions, by a continual Correſpondence which Monſieur *d' Eſtrades* holds with Perſons here to that purpoſe. And I ſuppoſe you have reaſon to think I was not deceived; both by what I told you, the Prince ſaid to me upon the Subject of a ſeparate Peace; the day after that long Diſcourſe upon it with the Penſioner; and likewiſe by what his Highneſs ſaid to me ſince, that it ſhould never be while he lived; and that it was in his Power to hinder it; which I then gave his Majeſty an Account of. And yet I am of opinion, that if beyond all Expectation, the laſt Remiſes of Money had not come from *Spain*; and that the *Mediterranean* as well as *Baltick* Fleets had come to be paid off, before any Money had been paid by *Spain* to the Admiralties here.

The

The Prince would have found Difficulties to carry on the War without endangering a Mutiny at *Amſterdam*. On the other Side, I am very well perſuaded to have given you in mine of the 5*th*, the true Scheme of what will be the Procedure of this State in the Treaty at *Nimeguen*: Which is, to enter into Matter as ſoon as they can, to adjuſt the Points that are particular between *France* and them; and after the Propoſal of Satisfaction to their Allies, to leave the management of that Head to the Allies themſelves; and ſo appear as to their own part to be *hors d' Affairs*, and thereby lye ready to take ſuch Meaſures as Time and Conjunctures ſhall ſuggeſt to them. But, as the Prince's Firmneſs ſeems to ſecure this Point while he lives; at leaſt, if he be right in the Calculation of his own Power: So, I am of his Highneſs's Opinion that nothing can prevent it, if any thing ſhould happen to his Perſon. And that on the other Side, by all the Diſpoſitions I diſcover here, both in the Prince and States, his Majeſty hath never yet found a more favourable Conjuncture towards the effecting what he hath ſo long deſired,

and

and employ'd ſo much of his Care in, as the happy Mediation of a general Peace; wherein I ſhall endeavour at my Return to *Nimeguen*, to purſue his Majeſty's Intentions, both upon our firſt Inſtructions, and thoſe we continually receive from your Hands, by his Majeſty's Command.

I am ever,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

To

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Arnheim, Jan. 25. S.N. 1677.

My LORD,

I had only leiſure in my laſt to acknowledge the honour of two I had then received from your Lordſhip, but ſhall now anſwer the Particulars of them, and give you as much Light, and as little Trouble by it as I can. The Offer his Majeſty made the Prince, concerning an Alliance after the Peace, was received by his Highneſs with all the ſatisfaction that could be; and he ſaid immediately upon it, that he would ſend it to the Penſioner to be communicated to ſome of the States, who he was ſure would be as glad of it as he, and would take it as a Sign of his Majeſty's concerning himſelf not only in his Highneſs, but in the ſafety of this Country: And that, for the Condition his Majeſty requir'd, of no Alliances in prejudice of it; he ſuppoſed his Majeſty did not mean thoſe they were already engaged in, and he was ſure they would enter into no new ones, but in concert with his Majeſty, in caſe he would bring them out of this War: Upon which he deſir ed

ſired me to acquaint him with his Majeſty's Thoughts. Thus far I had reaſon to believe the Advance made by his Majeſty would not fail of having all the Effects your Lordſhip tells me you then propoſed to your ſelves. But when I acquainted his Highneſs with the Subſtance of Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*'s Letter, after caſting up diſtinctly what it amounted to, he ſaid, he would die rather than make ſuch a Peace: And afterwards, that he would rather charge a thouſand men with a hundred, tho' he were ſure to die in the Action; and ſeveral ſuch deſperate things as theſe. Afterwards he talked a great deal in colder Blood; how loſt he ſhould be in Honour, to his Allies, and to all the World by ſuch a Peace as this; and that the preſſing them to it would have the ſame effect as if he abſolutely broke from them by a ſeparate Peace. I told him, that whilſt he conſider'd his own honour on one ſide, his Majeſty muſt conſider his on the other, if he ſhould now make ſuch Propoſitions to *France* as his Highneſs deſired, after having been their Allie in the War, and being now a Mediator. The Prince anſwered me, that when I ſpoke of his Majeſty's Honour, I could mean it only in the Eſteem of *France*; for he believed every Body elſe would think it more honour in the King to make a reaſonable

nable Peace, than to ſuffer *Flanders* to be loſt: And thereupon he fell into a great deal of Diſcourſe, what the Effects of that would be; and whenever it was that this State muſt of neceſſity fall into an abſolute dependance upon *France*, and could never think of defending it ſelf by any Alliance with *England*. That this Country was not made to be the Stage of a long War, by being wholly a Place of Trade, which would all die when the Country came into that Condition. And that beſides being of ſmall extent, the taking of one or two Towns by *France*, would bring them into the heart of all their Provinces. I told his Highneſs, all that was true, but yet I knew him ſo well as to believe he would venture it rather than ſee this State grow a Province to *France*, as muſt follow that which he call'd falling into a dependance upon them, and that I knew he was not made to ſerve. He ſaid, perhaps I was in the right; and yet he believed he ſhould do ſome deſperate thing or other rather than come to it; but that would do us no good; and either with him, or without him, the thing muſt come to that iſſue, if *Flanders* were once loſt. I told him, I believed the King was as unwilling to ſee that as his Highneſs; but asked how his Majeſty could propoſe ſuch a Peace to *France* as he deſir'd, after ſuch a

War,

War, as the Allies had made for theſe two laſt Campaigns, and with ſuch Appearances as were of the next, even in his own Opinion, and by the Penſioner's Diſcourſes to me upon that Subject. The Prince ſaid very plainly, that I had reaſon, and that they could not hope for ſuch from *France*, as things now ſtood, unleſs either his Majeſty's Kindneſs to him, or the Intereſt of his own Kingdom would put him upon letting *France* know that he deſired it; and he was ſure if that were done, they would come to eaſier Terms than he (the Prince) had already propoſed. If the King would not make the Peace, he knew no Remedy, but muſt try how the Emperor would make the War; and if he would do it as the State had propoſed to him, and as they had it in their hands at *Vienna*, to do if they pleaſed; he might yet hope for a Peace that way, ſince he could not do it this. That, for his own part, he muſt go on, ſince he was in; *Et quand on eſt à la grande meſſe on y eſt*; meaning, I ſuppoſe, one muſt ſtay till it was done, for there was no getting out.

I asked him, what I ſhould ſay about his Majeſty's Offer of Alliance; he ſaid he could make no Anſwer till he had ſpoken with the Penſioner and the Commiſſioners of Secret Affairs, but he would ſay ſomething

thing of it in his Letter to the King: But that was not the Buſineſs now; it would be very well if the War were ended; and ſhould leave this State in a Condition to be defended: But they had now a Diſeaſe upon them that they were dying of, and we told them what they ſhould do when they were recovered. Thus he ended the Diſcourſe, and to ſay truth, the moſt unſatisfied that ever I ſaw him in my Life. And I have given your Lordſhip all the Particulars of this Converſation, which I had omitted in the Account I gave Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*; contenting my ſelf to give him the Groſs of it; being by his Example induced to write a good deal in Cypher, when I had none with me that I thought fit to uſe in a Buſineſs of this Moment: And my own Eyes will not go through with it: And therefore I am apt to truſt to a Conveyance, which in near ſix years Ambaſſy in this Country, never yet failed me once.

Your Lordſhip does me too great Honour in deſiring my Opinion concerning the Terms of a Peace, as they now have paſſed between his Majeſty and the Prince, wherein I cannot preſume to mix any ſenſe of my own. The Prince told me abſolutely, he had gone as low as he could, in his firſt Scheme I ſent from the *Hague*: And

by what his Majeſty was pleaſed to diſcourſe to me with great freedom when I was laſt in *England*: I am not apt to believe he will go much farther than what he has already ſignified by Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*'s Letter: So that I do not ſee any Appearance of their falling into a Concert upon this Matter; which I am ſorry for, upon particular Reaſons between his Majeſty and the Prince, and upon general ones of the War, and Conſequences of it. For I am apt to believe *Flanders* in danger of being loſt this Summer, or in ſuch a way to it, as not afterwards to be ſaved: And I doubt the Prince and Penſioner tell us the Truth of this State falling into an abſolute dependance upon *France* whenever that happens. Becauſe I remember *Monſieur de Witt* told me the ſame thing very often, after our Alliances with this State for the defence of it in 1668. And I know about three Months before thoſe were made, when the *Dutch* deſpaired of our entring into the defence of *Flanders* after the Peace of *Breda*, they had ſo perfectly agreed the Terms between them of dividing *Flanders*, that it was hindred only by the ſingle Diſſent of the Province of *Utrecht*. And the Penſioner in his Diſcourſes at the *Hague* put me in mind of it, by ſaying, amongſt other things they could have by a ſeparate

Peace,

Peace, that I could not tell whether they might not have *Antwerp* and *Oſtende*, which I remember were part of the Conditions in *Monſieur de Witt*'s Scheme. Upon the whole, conſidering how both his Majeſty and the Prince ſtand tyed in different Points of honour upon this Matter; I know nothing like to ſalve all, unleſs upon this Reſolution in *Spain*, that Court ſhould be content to break their Marriage with the Emperor's Daughter, and endeavour it with *Madamoiſelle* the Duke of *Orleans*'s Daughter; and *France*, in conſideration of that Marriage, ſhould be content to part with ſome Towns in *Flanders*, more than they would do upon a Peace without a Match; ſince this way it would be done at leaſt with honour. I know not whether in ſuch an Affair his Majeſty might not uſe both his laſt Offices in *France*, and a Perſonal Intereſt that he has (as I take it) in *Don John*.

This, for ought I ſee, can be the only Expedient between the two great Difficulties in the Peace; which are, that the Affairs in *Spain* are ſo ill in *Flanders*, that the Allies cannot think fit to make a Peace upon the preſent Foot, or any thing near it: And on the other ſide, thoſe of *France* are in ſo good, that it cannot be expected they ſhould eaſily be prevailed with to reſtore much by a Peace, when they are in ſo fair

Appearances of gaining ſtill more by a War, at leaſt in *Flanders* and *Sicily*.

If ever a Peace ſhould be made, and leave *Flanders* in a condition of being defended, and the Prince alive; I do not think there can be any difficulty in taking thoſe Meaſures with this State which his Majeſty has offered, and in the manner he ſhall deſire. As for that Circumſtance your Lordſhip mentions for me to endeavour the obtaining, eſpecially having been offered before on this ſide, I take it to be a thing that muſt be eſtabliſhed upon private and particular Confidence between the King and the Prince, and not by any publick or private Treaties, conſidering the Conſtitutions of this Government. And this I remember to have ſaid to his Majeſty upon it, and he was pleaſed to be of the ſame Mind.

Your Lordſhip will find in both our common Letters of laſt Poſt and this, of an Embarras fallen out between us and the Count *Kinski*, about the Communication of his Powers to the *French*, before that of the *French* to him. We have made the beſt Excuſes we could; but to the thing it ſelf, the Truth is, it will not bear it; tho' he may on t'other ſide be too rigid in the Offence he takes, and Satisfaction he expects. But there was a Fault made, and it neither was the firſt, nor will be the laſt; and it

was fourty to one a greater had not been made next day; and ſuch, as I believe, would have broken all Commerce between Us and ſome of the Ambaſſadors here.

I am,

My LORD,

Your, &c.

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon*.

Arnheim, *Jan.* 28. S.N 1677.

SIR,

MY laſt was of the 22*d* from the *Hague*, the next day being *Saturday*, I viſited the Penſioner upon my Reſolution of going out of Town ſo ſoon as my Letters then due ſhould arrive, the Prince being gone to *Soeſdyke* that Morning. I told the Penſioner the Orders his Majeſty had given us at *Nimeguen*, to take off, upon occaſion, the Impreſſion made there among the Allies of his Majeſty's favouring a ſeparate Peace; and asked him, whether he thought

it of ſervice to the Prince, for me to ſay ſomething of the ſame kind at the *Hague*, before I left it; the Jealouſie having been as great among the Miniſters there, as at *Nimeguen*: He told me it was not worth my while, and that he was content they ſhould believe it, ſince it was in their Allies to help it or not as they pleaſed: That he had the day before told the Emperor's Miniſter in plain terms, that if the Conduct at *Vienna* continues what it had hitherto been; nay, if it did not fall abſolutely into the Meaſures the State inſiſted on, by the 13*th* of next Month; this State would be forc'd to make a ſeparate Peace, and he was content the Emperor ſhould know it. I told him, it might be a fit Language to hold to the Emperor's Miniſter, but that I knew the Prince too well to believe it: That he had told me, it ſhould be never while he lived; and that he had it in his power to hinder it; The Penſioner reply'd, that he ſhould come to it with as much Regret as the Prince himſelf, but that his Highneſs might be forced to it by the ill Conduct of his Allies; and if not by that, by Mutinies of the People here upon ill ſucceſſes of this next Campaign. That this late Revolution in *Spain* had ſhewed what could be brought about by the violent humour of a People, and that his Highneſs knew this

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Country too well, to go too far againſt it. That, in ſhort, it would depend upon the Emperor and *Spain*; for if they took right and vigorous Meaſures, they might yet hope for a good Campaign; if they followed ſuch as they had hitherto uſed, this State would be forced to a ſeparate Peace, unleſs a general one could be made before the Action of this Year began. This is all I remember material in his Diſcourſes, beſides valuing what he had carried for his Majeſty's ſatisfaction both in the States of *Holland*, and States General, ſo much againſt the humour of both in the Buſineſs of the *Scotch* Miniſters, for whoſe departures, within the limited time, he ſaid, Orders had been already given.

On *Sunday* Morning I received yours of *January* 9*th*, with the incloſed Pacquet from his Majeſty; upon which I immediately began my Journey towards *Soeſdyke*, where I arrived on *Monday* Afternoon; but met there only a Letter from the Prince, inviting me to come down to *Dieren*; his Highneſs having gone out that Morning a hunting, with intention to lie there that Night. On *Tueſday* Night I came to *Arnheim*, and yeſterday Morning went to *Dieren*, where I found the Prince, and delivered both his Majeſty's Letters. Upon reading the firſt, he ſeemed extremely pleaſed,

and ſaid, it was all the aſſurance that could be given, and that he would ſend it that Afternoon to the Penſioner, to be communicated to the Committe of Secret Affairs, to whom he was confident it would be the welcomeſt thing that could be, and yet he would give them notice of the Secrecy required in it. I told his Highneſs, I hoped he obſerved the Condition ſpecified, of making no Alliances in prejudice of this: He anſwered, that his Majeſty could not mean thoſe they had already; and for any new ones, he would undertake it while his Majeſty continued in this Mind. After this he read the ſecond Letter, and ſaid it was only of Credence to me in what I ſhould ſay of his Majeſty's Mind about the Conditions of the Peace. I diſcourſed the whole over in the ſame manner and order, and as near as I could in the ſame Terms wherein I was inſtructed; valuing the whole as ſuch a Scheme his Majeſty thought poſſible to be obtained of *France*, rather than ſuch as he thought to be wiſhed, if the Matter were whole, and the Affairs of the Allies in a better Poſture. I obſerved the Prince of *Orange* change Countenance when I named *Cambray*, yet he heard me go through the whole Scheme: And when he had done, he ſaid, that Dinner ſtaid, and that he would talk of it after he had dined; So we went

up,

up, but as he was near the Door, he turned and ſaid; though we ſhould talk more of it after Dinner, yet he could ſay in few Words all that was to be ſaid to it; which was, that he muſt rather dye than make ſuch a Peace.

After Dinner we fell again into the Diſcourſe. He asked me diſtinctly the Particulars, and caſt them up ſeveral ways what they would amount to, both as to the preſent State of Things, and that upon which the War begun: As, that *Spain* muſt by it part with *Burgundy*, *Cambray*, *Ayre*, and St. *Omer*; inſtead of the five Towns mentioned by his Majeſty. He ſaid I had ſpoiled his Dinner, that he had been thinking it over while he ſhould have eat; but upon the whole, was of the ſame Opinion he told me at firſt upon it, and that all muſt be ventured ſince he was in, and there was no other Way out. I told him, I ſuppoſed he would give his Majeſty his own Thoughts upon it; but hoped he would think it over a little more, and in all its Circumſtances before he did it: He replyed, that he would write that very Night to the King, and ſend me his Letter next morning, ſo as it might go by this Poſt: But that to ſave his Majeſty Trouble, he would refer him to me for Particulars, and only touch ſome Points in general

ral. He then desired me to let his Majesty know, that he had been very plain in what he had told me, upon this Matter of his own Thoughts, when he writ last to the King: That he had gone as low as he thought he could, with any regard to his Allies; or the Safety of this Country. That he doubted whether *Spain* would ever have been brought to it; but if his Majesty would have fallen in, he would have used his utmost Endeavours: But for this, he was certain they would not, though they were sure to lose all *Flanders* by the War; and that he would never propose it to them. That if *Holland* should make the Peace upon these Conditions, it would be the same thing as to make it separate, and would have the same Effects by losing wholly their Allies; and thereby casting their Dependance absolutely upon *France*: For if *Spain* were left in this State, *Flanders* could be defended neither by *Holland* nor by *England* it self, whenever *France* should think fit to invade it. That if *Flanders* were once lost, *Holland* could not possibly be defended by *England*, against *France*; and they would be forced to take their Measures with them, rather than be made the Stage of the War. That hereby, what his Majesty was pleased to offer in his first Letter, would come to

have no Effect: And that it depended upon the Iſſue of the War, whether *Holland* would be left capable of being defended, or deſerving the Honour of ſuch an Alliance with his Majeſty. He concluded, that what he ſaid at firſt, was all that could be ſaid from hence. That if his Majeſty proceeded farther in this Matter; it muſt be with *France*: And thereupon repeated what he had ſaid ſeveral times before; That if his Majeſty either upon Kindneſs, to Him (the Prince) or conſideration of what his own Crowns might be concerned in this Affair, would help him out of this War by a general Peace, upon any reaſonable Terms; there were no Meaſures his Majeſty ſhould deſire, which he would not fall into with all the Readineſs and Satisfaction that could be. If his Majeſty would not concern himſelf ſo far in it, he muſt leave it to God Almighty to decide it as he pleaſed. I deſired the Prince to think again, before he writ to his Majeſty; but he ſaid he would certainly write to Night; and that all he could think of any Buſineſs, was thought in an Hour's time; and therefore he deſired me to write this as his Anſwer: Which that I might not miſtake, I repeated over as I apprehended it; and his Highneſs ſaid it was right; and I have kept cloſe to it in

what

what I have written: Which is all I ſhall or indeed can trouble you with upon this Subject. And I think his Majeſty has before him, from my ſeveral Diſpatches ſince I left *Nimeguen*; the perfect and clear State of all Matters and Diſpoſitions as they play here, which yet may alter by the Accidents that the Spring or Summer ſhall bring forth; but I believe not till then. Upon the cloſure of this I intend for *Nimeguen*; and there fall into the Footſteps I left, and hope to recover my Health; which has ſuffered a good deal by this Journey, and which I ſhall always reſerve for the Occaſions of his Majeſty's Service.

I am ever,

SIR,

Your &c.

To

To the Prince of *Orange*.

Nimeguen, *Feb.* 6. S. N. 1677.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs,

I Received a Letter from Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* by his Majeſty's Command, in anſwer to the Account I gave him of your Highneſs's Diſcourſes to me at *Dieren*, upon the Subject of his Majeſty's laſt Letter to your Highneſs.

I find the King apprehends by the Way and Manner of your Highneſs's Anſwer (in return to what I diſcourſed to you there, as his Majeſty's Thoughts in Confidence between you, about the Conditions of a Peace) that what his Majeſty had offered upon that Subject, had not been rightly underſtood by your Highneſs or by me. Becauſe, firſt, the Thing is not meant to be any Propoſition that the King would make (which his Majeſty thinks is not in his Part, nor has he any Authority to do it) but meerly a Confidence between him and your Highneſs, in return of what you were pleaſed to ask of his Majeſty, by your Letter of the 15*th* paſt; upon which the King gave his Thoughts, framed and applyed particularly to what your

your Highneſs had repreſented of yours, as to the main Conditions of a Peace.

Next, his Majeſty obſerves; that the Change of *Cambray* was not a direct Part of the principal Scheme there offered; but is added in the ſecond Place as what his Majeſty propoſes, were to be wiſhed in his Opinion, for the making as it were, a double Frontier to *Bruſſels*; if it could be obtained from *France*. And farther his Majeſty obſerves, there were ſix Towns propoſed to be reſtored to *Spain* upon that Exchange; ſo as his Majeſty is of opinion, that what he has propoſed, if it could be got, would be better for *Flanders* (which is the great Thing the King thinks he ought to have in his Care) than what even your Highneſs propoſes. And therefore his Majeſty deſires you would think a little farther of the Thing, and not let it fall ſo very flat as you ſeemed to do by your laſt Anſwer, without trying what it can be beaten out to: For Things of this kind cannot be expected to have their Perfection upon the firſt Eſſay; but muſt be wrought upon with Patience and Temper. And ſo his Majeſty deſires, your Highneſs will do in this; and let him know your farther Mind upon it, which his Majeſty deſires in the Point, for the great Care he is in, to have this Matter of *Flanders* ſecured before it be too late.

But

But if after all, your Highneſs ſtill continues of your own Mind, and that you ſo deſire it; his Majeſty will very readily hand forward in the beſt Manner he can, this or any other Scheme your Highneſs ſhall think fit to have him hand towards *France*; and give your Highneſs the beſt Account he can of the Succeſs it hath. But his Majeſty cannot but think ſtrange, the Thing having been taken up in Confidence between him and your Highneſs, and ſo reſolved to be handled between you, ſhould thus be wholly let fall by your Highneſs.

This being what I have order to write to your Highneſs upon this Subject, from his Majeſty; I ſhall not preſume to encreaſe your Trouble any further, than by the Profeſſions of that Paſſion and Truth, wherewith I am ever,

Your Highneſs's moſt

Faithful and moſt

Obedient Servant.

To

To Sir *Joseph Williamson.*

Soesdyke, Feb. 26. S. N. 1677.

SIR,

ON *Friday* last I received a Letter by an *Express* from the Prince, by which he desired me to meet him at this Place on *Sunday*, as I accordingly did: And had last Night a long Conversation with his Highness upon the Subject of my Letter to him; which as you will have observed by the Copy I sent you, was a perfect Extract of what you were pleased to write to me by his Majesty's Command of the 30*th* past. I repeated to him again his Majesty's Apprehension of his Highness having mistaken the Thing as it was offered by his Majesty. In regard that of *Cambray* was not made a direct Part of the principal Scheme; but added only as the King's Opinion for making a sort of a double Frontier to *Brussels*, if it could be obtained from *France*. And also that by this Scheme there would be six Towns restored to *Spain*, whereas his Highness had reckoned there would be but five.

The

The Prince replyed, he underſtood there would be but five of thoſe that were given to *France* by the Peace of *Aix*; and that you had given *un autre tour à cette affaire, mais que cela ne change pas la choſe.* But, that the Difference was plain between his Majeſty's Thoughts and his: For his Majeſty intended they ſhould treat *ſur le pied de ce que la France poſſedoit á preſent, et que les echanges ſe feroient la deſſus.* Whereas his (the Prince's) meaning was, that they ſhould treat upon the foot of *Aix la Chapelle*, and that the Exchanges ſhould be made upon That.

I told him, his Majeſty deſired however that he would think a little further of it, and not let it fall ſo ſuddenly; ſince his Majeſty's deſign was the ſecuring of *Flanders* before it were too late: And that however, if his Highneſs ſhould continue of the ſame mind; the King would be willing to hand over to *France* any Scheme the Prince ſhould think fit, and give him the beſt Account he could of it.

The Prince replyed, that he had conſidered enough of it; but did not well know what he could ſay more upon it, at this time. That when he had firſt ſpoke to me of it at the *Hague*, he was not only very deſirous of a Peace; but of opinion that it might have been compaſſed this

Winter, and thought it was fitter for him to addreſs himſelf to his Majeſty upon it, than go any other way; both becauſe he believed his Majeſty defired the Peace, and was alſo concerned that *Flanders* ſhould not be loſt. That he had made *ce pas d'avance*, in telling the King his Thoughts upon the Terms; and had ſome reaſon to hope, that *France* might have been contented with them, if his Majeſty had fallen into the ſame mind. That he was very ſorry the King's Thoughts had been ſo different from his, and ſuch as he is ſure he cannot agree to if he be a Man of Honour; conſidering how he ſtands engaged to his Allies. That he is not at all confident he could have brought them to what he had propoſed; but ſhould however have endeavoured it, and whenever his Majeſty's Thoughts come nearer his, that he ſhall be ſtill glad to know them: But he now looked upon the Campaign as begun, and believed, at the very time we talked, the Guns were playing before *Valenciennes*, and that the Succeſs of the Campaign would every day change the Pretenſions of the Parties in point of the Peace. That for his own part, he now ſaw no hopes of it; but expected a very long War, unleſs *Flanders* ſhould be wholly loſt; and in that caſe the States muſt make the beſt Terms they

they could. But he confeſſed he was of the *Spaniards* mind, that it was better to loſe *Flanders* by a War than by a Peace. That he believed *Valenciennes* would be taken, and perhaps St. *Omer* too; and the more Towns were taken, the more Difficult the Peace would be, ſince there could be found no Equivalent for them upon a Treaty. That he expected a very ill Beginning of the Campaign, and to make an ill Figure in it himſelf; at leaſt till the *Germans* took the Field: But he was in, and muſt go through with it; and the beſt was, that few Campaigns end as they begin. That he gave his Majeſty Thanks for his Offer of handing any Propoſition from him to *France*; but that was never his Meaning; for if it had, he could eaſily have found a directer way: But his Intention was to enter into a Confidence with his Majeſty alone upon that Subject; and to owe a Peace to him if they had agreed upon the Terms. But if any thing be propoſed to *France*, otherwiſe than as his Majeſty's own Thoughts; it muſt be from the Alliance, and not particularly from him.

I asked his Highneſs whether he would not write to the King upon this Subject; but he excuſed it upon his having ſo many other Diſpatches laſt night upon his Hands, and his going ſo early this morning to the

Hague: Upon which he desired me to let his Majesty know all we had been able to say upon it: I repeated it to him, as near as I could to what he had said; and upon his approving of it, immediately set it down in writing, according to what I have now transmitted to you.

His Highness went this Morning by five a Clock towards the *Hague*, and talks of going from thence in eight or ten days. I have stay'd here till this afternoon upon the Dispatch of my Letters, that I might not lose this Post; but am now returning towards *Nimeguen*; and shall not lengthen this Trouble beyond the Assurances of my being ever,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

To My Lord Treasurer.

Nimeguen, March 26th. S. N. 1677.

My LORD,

I Were not excusable to offer your Lordship many Troubles of this kind, at a time I know you have so many of another:

Yet

yet having lately received an Intimation from my Son, of your Lordſhip's Deſire, to know if I had lately heard of any Project offered by the *French* to the Prince of *Orange* towards a Peace: I thought it became me to tell your Lordſhip my ſelf, that ſince the Account I gave Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* of what paſſed at my laſt Interview with his Highneſs at *Soeſdyke*; I have not heard of any thing of that kind, farther than the Jealouſys of *Don Pedro de Ronquillo*, about ſome private Negotiations between them upon the Articles of the Marine Treaty, which he the more apprehends by the Delays of the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors, to enter into that Matter here; as they pretended to do within few Days after the Exchange of the Pretenſions between the Parties. If there be any thing of that kind on foot, I believe it is between the Mareſchal *d' Eſtrades* and the Penſioner, by the Intervention of one *Peſſer* (as I remember his Name is) who was Penſioner of the Town of *Maſtricht* when the *French* took it; and who has kept up a Correſpondence of Letters with the Mareſchal ever ſince his Return into *Holland*.

The Penſioner had formerly ſhewed me ſeveral of thoſe Letters in general Terms, about the Advantages the State might find in a Peace with *France*. And when I was

laſt at the *Hague*, he told me he newly received two with very particular Overtures. I would fain have ſeen them, but he excuſed it upon knowing that I was bound to give an Account of them to Court; and ſuſpecting that no other Uſe would be made of them there, but communicating all to *France*, which would loſe the Penſioner's Credit upon ſuch Occaſions.

On the other ſide, Monſieur *Colbert* and *d' Avaux* have told me, that the Reaſon of their Maſter's ſending Monſieur *d' Eſtrades* hither inſtead of the Duke *de Vitry* (who was in the firſt Commiſſion) was the Poſſeſſion he had given the Miniſters in *France*, of the great Correſpondences he had in *Holland*. Upon which Point, tho' I know he is very pretending; yet I do not think it goes farther than what I have mentioned, and had not reached any thing particular with the Prince when I ſaw him laſt.

Beſides, I left his Highneſs fully reſolved upon the Proſecution of the War this Campaign, without more Thoughts of the Peace after that Tranſaction with his Majeſty had failed: And I hear *Don John* has not only performed with him in what Payments were due to the Admiralty at *Amſterdam*; but in an Advance of 50000 Crowns, and a Fund for the reſt of his High-

Highneſs's Perſonal Debts from *Spain*, and likewiſe had eſtabliſh'd a Courſe that will not fail for the tranſmitting two hundred thouſand Crowns a Month for the Affairs of *Flanders* and Payment of the Allies. So that I do not well ſee what can prevent the Courſe of this Campaign, unleſs the Emperor ſhould fail in what he aſſured the Prince of *Orange*, concerning the Motions and Conduct of the *German* Armies, either by the Uncertainty of the Councils at *Vienna*, between the differing Factions of the Duke of *Lorrain* and *Montecuculi* in that Court; or by the faultering of ſome of the Princes of *Germany* in the Alliance, which has been of late ſuſpected of the Dukes of *Lunenburgh*. In theſe Caſes, or any other that ſhall hinder the *German* Armies from drawing off the *French* Forces from *Flanders* into *Germany*; it will not be in the Power of the Prince of *Orange* and the *Spaniards* to ſave the reſt of *Flanders* this Summer: And what Meaſures that will draw on of force; between his Highneſs and *France*, I cannot tell. But otherwiſe, if the *Germans* perform what they have promiſed their Allies, it may be a warm Summer on that ſide; and the poor Remainder of *Flanders* after the loſs of St. *Omer* and *Cambray* (which the *French* Ambaſſadors here aſſure themſelves of) may

be ſaved by Diverſion; for otherwiſe it never can.

Thus I believe that Affair plays at preſent. In the mean time I muſt confeſs to your Lordſhip, I was troubled to find the Prince go into the Field, ſo ill ſatisfyed with that Scheme of Peace, which his Majeſty by Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*'s Letter, ordered me to communicate to him: And the more, becauſe ſome Words he let fall in the heat of Diſcourſe, made me doubt; if he ſhould have a mind hereafter to make any Overtures to *France*, he might do it by ſome other way than by his Majeſty. For as to the Thing it ſelf, he thought what the King propoſed was the utmoſt that *France* would have asked. Nay, he ſaid he had Reaſon to believe when he ſpoke to me firſt; that *France* would have accepted even what his Highneſs mentioned, if his Majeſty would but have propoſed it as his own Opinion: And he wondred his Majeſty would not make that Pace; and at leaſt ſend his Highneſs the Anſwer of *France* upon it. Then for the Manner, he was as much unſatisfyed as with the Matter of it. He ſaid, Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* thought he could make him miſtake the Thing by giving it *un autre tour*; and that he could ſatisfy him with *la*

crême

crême foitèe: And asked, why ſuch Dealing with ſo plain a Man as he (the Prince) was: And ſaid, that if he had thought *qu'on auroit pris l' affaire de cet air lá*, he would never have troubled them with it in *England*; and could have found a nearer way to *France*.

I ſaid what I could to ſatisfy him: But he has a Way of falling downright into the Bottom of a Buſineſs, and is to be dealt with no other way that ever I could find; and upon this Occaſion, ſaid a great deal very ſharply of ſome of the Kings Miniſters dealing artificially with him, and believing they could talk him into any thing: Which he ſaid, was not a Way to do Buſineſs, and only ſhewed the mean Opinion they had of him, that they thought was to be dealt with by ſuch Methods as thoſe.

I am ever,

My LORD,

Your, &c.

To Mr. *H------e.*

Nimeguen, May 21*ſt.* S. N. 1677.

SIR,

I Am to acknowledge the Favour of one from you of the 8*th*, and the Teſtimonies it gave me of the continuance of your Kindneſs to me, and remembrance of our Converſation here, which I queſtion not will begin again where it ended, at what time, or in what place ſoever it happens to be renewed. Since you tell me you know no more of your return hither than I find by your Letter, Iwill enter no farther upon aDiſcourſe you ſeem reſolved to let fall,but attend the effect of thoſe good Words you give me, about employing me in your Service here,when youbegin to look this way. I ſuppoſe this day will for the preſent have turned your Thoughts upon another Scene, and by the Motions whereof they here either hope or fear that the Meaſures of this will be influenced.

For my part, I am ſo much a Stranger to the Councils in *England*, that I cannot pretend to give my ſelf the leaſtAccount of them upon this Occaſion, and much leſs to other

other men that are very inquiſitive after them. And am very well content to be ſo; for you know all my Politicks are at an end with that of my late Negotiation at the *Hague*: And I pretend no more than to do a plain Duty while I am in theſe Employments, and paſs a private eaſy Life after this is ended; and inſtead of Care to mend the World, buſie my Thoughts no farther than with that of mending my ſelf. All we wiſh is, that we might at one time or other loſe the Reproach I told you, of *Fluctuation perpetuelle*, and reſolve for good and all what Ends and Points are fitteſt for us to purſue, and then bend our Endeavours in ſteddy Courſes to bring them about; and when one way fails, try another, as we have good Examples. And I think in Politicks as well as Morals, it is a good Queſtion of one of your Friends and mine, tho' our Colleague's Enemy,

Eſt aliquid quo tendis, & in quod dirigis arcum,
An paſſim ſequeris corvos?

And there I leave all theſe kind of Thoughts, and wiſh you happy ſucceſs in this Seſſion of Parliament you are entring, and the good Fortunes and Entertainments you propoſe to your ſelf at Court, or any where,

where, and to my ſelf many Occaſions of expreſſing how much I am,

Your moſt Faithful

and moſt Humble Servant.

To my Lord Biſhop of *ROCHESTER.*

Nimeguen, May 21*ſt*, S.N. 1677.

My LORD,

I Am unacquainted with Thanks or Praiſes, having ſo little deſerved any, that I muſt judge of them rather by the Report of others, than by any Experience of my own. But if by either I underſtand any thing of them, all the Charm or Value they have, ariſes from the Eſteem a man has of the Perſon that gives them, or the belief, in ſome meaſure, of his own deſerving them: The firſt of theſe Circumſtances gave ſo great an Advantage to thoſe I had lately the honour of receiving from your Lordſhip in a Letter delivered me by Mr. *Dolben*, that the want of the other was but neceſſary to allay

allay the Vanity they might otherwiſe have given me. But where a man can find no ground to flatter himſelf upon the Thanks he receives, he begins to conſider whether they are Praiſe or Reproach: And ſo I am ſure I have reaſon to do in the Acknowledgments your Lordſhip is pleaſed to make me of any Favours to your Son, who has never yet been ſo kind to me as to give me the leaſt Occaſion of obliging him. I confeſs I ſhould have been glad to meet with any, tho' I do not remember ſo much as ever to have told him ſo; but if he has gueſt it from my Countenance or Converſation, it is a Teſtimony of his obſerving much, and judging well; which are Qualities I have thought him guilty of, among thoſe others that allow me to do him no Favour but Juſtice only in eſteeming him. 'Tis his Fortune to have been beforehand with me, by giving your Lordſhip an occaſion to take notice of me, and thereby furniſhing me with a Pretence of entring into your Service; which gives him a new Title to any I can do him, and your Lordſhip a very juſt one to employ me upon all Occaſions.

Notwithſtanding your Lordſhip's favourable Opinion, I will aſſure you, 'tis well for me that our Work here requires little Skill, and that we have no more but Forms to deal with in this Congreſs, while the

Treaty

Treaty is truly in the Field, where the Conditions of it are yet to be determined. *Fata viam invenient*; which is all I can ſay of it; nor ſhall I increaſe your Lordſhip's preſent Trouble beyond the Profeſſions of my being,

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's

moſt Obedient

Humble Servant.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Nimeguen June 25. S. N. 1677.

My LORD,

IF I pretended to make your Lordſhip the acknowledgments I owe for the Honour and Kindneſs of your laſt Letter, this I am ſure would be made up of nothing elſe. And therefore when I have aſſur'd your Lordſhip that no man could be more obliged than I was by it, nor more ſenſible than I was upon

on it; I ſhall tell you without more Circumſtance, what my Thoughts have amounted to upon the Conſideration of that Propoſal you are pleaſed to make me from the King. His Majeſty has always been ſo gracious to me, but ſo much more particularly in the opinion of my being capable of ſerving him in that Station your Lordſhip mentions; that if I were worth that Sum, or a greater than what it ſeems Mr. Secretary *Coventry* expects, I would the readieſt in the World lay it down, either upon this Occaſion, or any other; or upon none at all beſides the leaſt ſignification of his Majeſty's Pleaſure. But in the Condition of my Fortune, I will aſſure your Lordſhip, it were as eaſy for me to coyn it, as to find it any other ways; my Father living ſtill, and keeping the whole Eſtate of the Family: And the beſt Husbandry in ſuch Employments as mine have been, reaching no farther than to bring the Year about, unleſs upon the change of them ſome Preſents attend it. But, if either it ſhould arrive, that I ſhould outlive my Father, who is very infirm; or that this Employment ſhould end with the Preſents uſual to Mediators, I ſhall leave it wholly to his Majeſty to command me how to diſpoſe of any thing I ſhall thereby poſſeſs. And I am of opinion upon the general Proſpect I have into the Affairs of *Chriſtendom* from

my

my Station here, that I ſhall eaſily ſee to an end of this Employment, as ſoon as this Campaign is done: And that within three Months after we ſhall either fall into the War, or ſhall ſee a Peace of one ſort or other.

In either of theſe Caſes my Figure here determines, and ſhall do ſo in *Holland* too, if his Majeſty gives me leave; and the Preſents of this laſt will bring ſomething into my Purſe, tho' the other ſhould fail, and go a little way towards what your Lordſhip propoſes. And 'tis poſſible that in the mean while I may be a little neceſſary to his Majeſty's honour in this very Poſt, where it happens unfortunately, that tho' the wiſe Paces a Miniſter makes may never be worth taking notice of, yet he lies every day in the way of making ill ones; and upon them lies as open both to his Majeſty's Diſhonour and his own, as perhaps in any Employment of the World beſides.

Upon Mr. *Secretary Coventry*'s Part in ſuch a Delay I can ſay little, but hope his Majeſty will be content, at the leaſt for ſo long, to keep a good Servant, inſtead of hazarding an ill one: And I think the Bargain between my Lord *Arlington* and Mr. *Secretary Williamſon* depended a great deal longer than this can do; tho', as I remember, it was but ſix thouſand Pounds that was given

ven between them, and my Lord *Arlington* gave my Lord St. *Albans* ten. And if his Majeſty ſhould have a mind in the mean time to excuſe himſelf from admitting any other, by ſaying he is engaged; he may very well do it upon what he was pleaſed to ſay to me in the Year 1674. after the Peace was made, when I made my Acknowledgments as well as Excuſes upon the Offer of going Ambaſſador into *Spain*: That he intended me a better Thing; and that tho' he was then engag'd, yet when it fell again I ſhould have it. I do not ſay this to lay the leaſt hold in the world upon any ſuch Promiſe, but to furniſh his Majeſty with the Excuſe of being engag'd, if he ſhould think fit. Otherwiſe it is a Thing I abſolutely forget, whenever his Majeſty does ſo: And if he finds any other perſon he thinks fit to bring into the Place, I ſhall however upon my return from hence, either in any other Station, or in none, endeavour the reſt of my Life to deſerve his Majeſty's Opinion, of being either as good a Servant, or a leaſt as good a Subject as any he has.

I had a Letter this laſt Week from the Prince, wherein he was pleaſed to give me ſome Account of *Monſieur Bentinck*'s Journey and Return, extreamly to his Highneſs's ſatisfaction, as to all that paſſed from his Majeſty upon that Occaſion. As to your Lord-

ſhip's part, he ſays theſe Words : *Je l' avois particulierement adreſſé á Monſieur le Grand Treſorier, qui en a uſé d' une maniere ſi obligeante, & luy a parlé avec tant de franchiſe, que je ne puis m' en aſſés louer.* If he can ſucceed in the Deſires I know he has, of making a Journey into *England* when the Campaign ends, I believe ſo much of his Inclinations towards a Peace (that may in any kind ſave hishonour and the reſt of *Flanders*) that I am confident the King and his Highneſs, if they meet, will take their Meaſures together upon that Matter, and upon the future Conduct of both their Allies.

I ask your Lordſhip's Pardon for ſo long a Trouble, which yet muſt not end without the Repetition of all the moſt ſenſible Acknowledgments that can be made you for ſo much Favour as has obliged me to be for ever, and with as much Reaſon as Paſſion,

My LORD,

Your &c.

To Sir *John Temple.*

Sheen, Auguſt —. 1677.

SIR,

SInce the Account I gave you lately from *Nimeguen*, of my Son's coming to me, the Errant he was ſent on, and the Anſwer I had returned thereupon to his Majeſty, I thought that Affair would have ſlept at leaſt for ſome time: But within a Fortnight after I received by Expreſs a Command to repair immediately into *England*, without ſo much as any notice of the Occaſion. I accordingly left *Nimeguen* the 5*th* of *July*, and had a very good Paſſage over in a *Yacht* that was ſent for me to the *Briel*. The firſt time I ſaw the King, he was pleaſed to call me into his Cloſet, and to tell me, I knew the Occaſion of my coming over, from what my Lord Treaſurer had lately writ to me by his Command: That he had ſeen my Anſwer, and was however reſolved I ſhould come into that Poſt. That he knew no man was ſo fit to ſerve him in it as I; and ſince he found I was not able to bear the Charge of coming into it, he was content to do it himſelf. That upon my coming over, Secretary

Coventry had taken a great Allarm; and tho' he had before been willing to part with his Place, upon the Terms my Lord Treaſurer had propoſed to him, yet he had upon this Occaſion come to him (the King) and told him the Reports he met with from all hands, of my being ſent for over to come into his Office. That he hoped he had at leaſt deſerved by ſo long Services, not to be turned off without giving him ſo much time, that his Friends and the World might ſee it was a Choice of his own rather than the King's. His Majeſty ſaid, he had told him, that he need not trouble himſelf any farther about it, and that when he took ſuch a Reſolution, he would tell him of it himſelf; and that this was all he had ſaid till he ſpoke with me.

I gave his Majeſty my humble Thanks, as became me upon ſuch an Occaſion; but ſaid, I thought Secretary *Coventry* had great Reaſon in what he deſired: That he was a very worthy Gentleman, and had ſerved him long: And therefore I made it my humble Suit to his Majeſty, that he would not part with him to make room for me, till he himſelf ſhould be content. The King bid me ſpeak with my Lord Treaſurer about it; and ſo this Matter reſts; and I am ſure ſhall do ſo for me: For my Friends muſt pardon me if I cannot overcome the Coldneſs I have

at heart upon this Occaſion; to ſay no more.

Some days after, the King ſeeming to be in great Apprehenſions for the Prince of *Orange*'s Perſon, upon the Hazards he is continually expoſed to, and likewiſe for the ſucceſs of the preſent Campaign; conſidering the *French* forces now in the Field, and how ill the Prince is ſeconded by his Allies, told me, he had a mind I ſhould go over to him, and try whether he would fall into ſuch Terms of a Peace as his Majeſty might hope to get accepted by *France*. That in caſe any ſuch could be agreed on before the Campaign ended, he ſhould be glad to ſee the Prince here, having conſented to it when *Monſieur Bentinck* was in *England*. I told his Majeſty, that I was confident he knew the Prince's Mind upon the Terms of a Peace without ſending to him, by all that paſſed in that Negotiation between the Prince and me laſt Winter; and that I believed nothing could alter him, unleſs it were ſome great Change of Affairs by the good or ill ſucceſs of this Campaign, which was not yet near an end: And when it was done, ſince his Majeſty was content the Prince ſhould come over, they would much eaſier agree when they were together, than by any Miniſter between them, in how much Confidence ſoever.

I was extremely preſſed for ſome days upon this Journey, and had no mind to it, knowing how unwelcome it would be to the Prince while he was in the Field, for many Reaſons; and how ill it would anſwer the End for which his Majeſty intended it; and therefore at laſt told the King and Duke together, that if they were reſolved to make the Tryal, I deſired they would do it by another hand: That I had ſpent all my ſhot laſt Winter, and left the Prince fix'd upon a Stand which I was ſure he would make good as long as he could: That Mr. *Hyde* was now idle here; who having upon his Return from *Poland* received a Commiſſion to appear as one of the King's Mediators, during the ſhort ſtay he ſhould make at *Nimeguen*; and there being now but one Ambaſſador of the King's there, I thought there was nothing ſo proper as for Mr. *Hyde* to return to *Nimeguen* in that Figure, how little ſoever there was to do; ſince by our Original Commiſſion, there ought to be two to act in that Mediation. That upon his Journey he might ſee the Prince of *Orange*, and purſue ſuch Inſtructions as his Majeſty ſhould give him upon that Occaſion.

This was approved and reſolved on; and Mr. *Hyde* is well enough pleaſed with the Employment; which renews his Character at *Nimeguen*, that was before but a Compli-

ment

ment to him as he paſſed by that place: Tho' I have, as a Friend, told him beforehand what ſucceſs he is like to meet in his Journey to the Prince; and he reckons upon it.

This is all the preſent Account I can give you of my ſelf, whatever you will meet with in the News-Papers that run abroad, and have made me Secretary of State already; ſo that I receive twenty Impertinent Compliments upon it, and Applications for Places in the Office. But I am, I thank God, in an eaſy Place here at *Sheen*, where I ſpend all the time I can poſſibly, and never ſaw any thing pleaſanter than my Garden and the Country and River about it, which I was grown almoſt a Stranger to. I think here often of *Sancho*, that ſaid, he had got nothing by his Government, but the knowledge that he was not fit to govern any thing beſides his Sheep. And that I have got by knowing a Court, and the Courſe of Publick Affairs; that I am not fit to ſerve in one, nor to manage the other; which is all I ſhall ſay in excuſe of my Conduct: And you and my Friends will be content I ſhall at leaſt take a little Breath, and ſee the Iſſue of the preſent Campaign abroad, and of the Prince's Journey hither at the end of it, before I take any new Meaſures, or fall into any new Engagements.

My Wife and Family continue ſtill at *Nimeguen*; only my Siſter and *Jack* are with me here, and both ſeem as kind to *Sheen* as I am. We are confident you would be ſo too, if you could reſolve of ſeeing it once ſince the Alterations made here; that you might have a ſhare in the Pleaſure of them, as well as you had in the Charge.

We long to hear of your good Health, having, I doubt, loſt ſome Letters by our ſudden Removals,

I am ever,

SIR,

Yours, &c.

To Sir *John Temple*.

London, Nov. ---. 1677.

SIR,

THough I do not trouble you often with publick News or Buſineſs; yet I am ſenſible of having too much neglected it of late, conſidering what has paſſed; which I know you will be more pleaſed with than any

any you have been entertained with a great while. For I remember how often and how much you have desired to see the Prince of *Orange* married here; not only from your good Wishes to him, but from your Apprehensions of some greater Matches that might befall us, and with Consequences ill enough to Posterity as well as to the present Age. I am in a good deal of hast at this present time, and therefore shall sum up a great deal in a little room. The Prince of *Orange* came to the King at *Newmarket*, where he was mighty well received both of King and Duke. I made the Acquaintance there between the Prince and my Lord Treasurer; and in such a manner as tho' they were not at all known before to one another, yet they fell very soon into Confidence.

The Prince said not a Word to any of them of any Thoughts of a Wife while they staid at *Newmarket*; and told me, no Considerations should move him in that Affair till he had seen the Lady. The day after he saw her here, he moved it to the King and Duke; and tho' he did it with so good a Grace that it was very well received; yet in four or five days Treaty, it proved to be entangled in such Difficulties, that the Prince sent for me one Night, and uttering his whole Heart, told me, he was resolved to give it over, repenting him from the

heart

heart, of his Journey, and would be gone within two Days, and truſt God Almighty with what would follow; and ſo went to Bed the moſt melancholy that ever I ſaw him in my Life. Yet before Eleven a Clock the next Morning, the King ſent me to him to let him know he was reſolved on the Match, and that it ſhould be done immediately, and in the Prince's own Way.

Thus far, what had paſs'd went no farther than the King, the Duke, the Prince, my Lord Treaſurer, and me: But, that Afternoon it was declared at the Foreign Committee, and next day at Council; you will eaſily imagine with what general Joy. I cannot but tell you, that no man ſeems to lay it to heart ſo much as my Lord *Arlington*; having had no part in it; which he could not but take notice of to the Prince, who told me his Compliment to him upon it was, That ſome Things, tho' they were good in themſelves, yet were ſpoiled by the manner of doing them; but this was in it ſelf ſo good, that the manner of doing it could not ſpoil it. I am told he lays it upon me, and will never forgive me; which I muſt bear as well as I can: But yet becauſe you know how we have formerly lived, I will tell you, that it was not only impoſſible my Lord Treaſurer and he ſhould concur in one thing, but he had likewiſe loſt

all

all the Prince's Confidence and Opinion, ſince his laſt Journey into *Holland*. Beſides, for my own part, I found theſe two Years paſt, he could not bear my being ſo well neither with the Prince, nor with the Treaſurer; but endeavoured by Sir *Gabriel Sylvius* to break the firſt by Steps which the Prince acquainted me with; nor could he hold reproaching me the laſt whenever I went to him; though he himſelf had firſt adviſed me to apply my ſelf to my Lord Treaſurer all I could, upon my laſt Ambaſſy into *Holland*: And though I had ever ſince told them both, I would live well with them both, let them live as ill as they would one with another; and my Lord Treaſurer had been ſo reaſonable as to be contented with it.

Since the Marriage the King and the Prince have fallen into the Buſineſs abroad, and agreed upon the Terms of a Peace, which the King will offer to *France*, and ſuch as they both conclude will ſecure *Flanders*. They both agree that I muſt of neceſſity go to *Paris* immediately upon this Errand, and bring a poſitive Anſwer from that Court within a time prefix'd. I never undertook any Journey more unwillingly, knowing in what Opinion I ſtand already at that Court; how deeply they reſent

reſent the Prince's Match without their Communication, or the leaſt Word to their Ambaſſador here; and with how little reaſon I can hope to be the welcomer for this Errand. But the King will abſolutely have it; and ſo I have made all my ſmall Preparations, and think to be gone within two Days; which is all at preſent, but to ask your Bleſſing, and aſſure you of my being,

SIR,

Your, &c.

To

To the Prince of *Orange.*

London, Decemb. 8th. 1677.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs,

I Should by laſt Poſt have rejoyced with your Highneſs upon the News of your happy Arrival, and upon the Reſolutions that have been taken here ſince you went; in thoſe Affairs wherein your Highneſs is ſo deeply concerned: But that my Lord Treaſurer's Letter to you upon this Subject was ſo long and ſo particular, that nothing could be added to it for your Highneſs's Information or Satisfaction: And therefore I reſolved not to trouble you with the ſame thing by that Poſt, and from ſo much a worſe Hand. I ſuppoſe my Lord Ambaſſador *Hyde* will have ſhewed your Highneſs, his Inſtructions and Mr. Secretary's Letter upon that Occaſion; which agreeing ſo fully with what my Lord Treaſurer writ, muſt have left you in no doubt of thoſe Reſolutions being taken here. And yet I thought your Highneſs would not be diſpleaſed to know from me, that I am of Opinion they are ſo; and which is more, that the Duke will go up to as great a Height in them as any Man, in caſe *France* gives

gives them the occaſion by their Anſwer to what Mr. *Mountague* goes away with to day; and that his Highneſs will abſolutely conclude from thence, what their good Intentions are or have been to the King: Though I have this ſecond time excuſed my ſelf from attending upon your Highneſs, and thereby devolved his Majeſty's Commands upon Mr. *Hyde* once more; yet I hope your Highneſs will pardon me, ſince I have only reſerved my ſelf for the next Occaſion, which I expect will be of more moment, and within a very little time. For the preſent, I only deſire your Highneſs will pleaſe to give your Anſwer to what Mr. *Hyde* carries you, in ſuch manner as may be fully to his Majeſty's Satisfaction; and if you ſhould ſcruple the doing it to any other Hand, that you would at leaſt do it in a private Letter to his Majeſty's own, which may not go farther than to thoſe Hands by which all your Highneſs's Concerns have hitherto been tranſacted.

I hope your Highneſs will think to write particularly to the Duke as well as the King, in acknowledgment and applauſe of theſe late Reſolutions; and my Lord Treaſurer will deſerve it too by the great Part he has had in them.

I aſk

I ask your Highneſs's Pardon for the Length and Confidence of this Letter; and your Juſtice in believing me ever, what I ſhall ever be, with a perfect Devotion,

SIR,

Your Highneſs's &c.

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Sheen, May 18th. 1678.

My LORD,

FInding my ſelf ſomething recovered of my Illneſs, which hindred me from waiting upon your Lordſhip before I left the Town; I could not but let you know how very ſenſible I was of what you laſt told me with ſo much Kindneſs, about his Majeſty and Royal Highneſs having been ſo much diſpleaſed with ſome of my late Diſcourſes to his Majeſty; though your Lordſhip could not tell me more of them, than that they were ſome Popular Notions: As likewiſe the great Diſſatisfaction his Majeſty would receive at the Diffi-

Difficulties I made to enter into an Affair which belonged not at all to my Poſt; and wherein his Majeſty had not done me the Honour to acquaint me with the Deliberation or Digeſtion of it. I muſt confeſs, the Senſe of his Majeſty's Diſpleaſure (which I never deſerved) has been ſo great a Mortification to me; that, to ſhew how much I have ever been concerned in his Majeſty's Service and Satisfaction, and how little in any Advantages of my own. I have reſolved moſt humbly to lay at his Majeſty's Feet, not only my two preſent Ambaſſies, but alſo the Promiſe of the Secretary's Place; which his Majeſty was pleaſed long ſince to make me ſo graciouſly, and of his Motion. Therefore whenever his Majeſty pleaſes to order me a Letter of Revocation to the States-General (which I ſhall ſend over to my Secretary at the *Hague*) and give me Leave to ſend for both my Families away from the *Hague* and *Nimeguen*: I ſhall upon it come and beg the Honour of kiſſing his Majeſty's Hand, and make him my humble Acknowledgments for the undeſerved Honours he hath done me, by ſo many and ſo great Employments abroad, as well as by deſigning me ſo much a greater at home. I ſhall at the ſame time aſſure his Majeſty of my Reſolutions, to paſs the reſt of my

Life

Life in the conſtant and hearty Wiſhes, and Prayers for the Honour and Safety of his Majeſty and his Kingdoms; and, that how mean a Servant ſoever I have been, he ſhall find me as good a Subject as any Man alive.

For what I ought to ſay to your Lordſhip upon this Occaſion; I ſhall leave it till I wait upon you, being reſolved by all means poſſible to preſerve the Honour of ſo long an Acquaintance, and of ſo much Favour as your Lordſhip's to me. And, as during all my Employments I never yet asked any thing of his Majeſty beſides the bare Pay of them, nor ever uſed to trouble your Lordſhip about any Buſineſs of my own, ſo I ſhall continue the ſame Courſe at the end of them, and leave to my Wife the Purſuit of what his Majeſty owes me upon them; that ſo your Lordſhip may ever reckon upon all the Services, and never upon any Trouble from

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's &c.

To the Duke of *ORMOND*.

London, July 2d. 1678.

My LORD,

THE Account I gave your Grace by my Brother, of my not writing, was ſo true; that though I was very ſorry I had it for ſo long together, yet I know your Grace was ſo juſt as to receive it. I will not preſume to ſay 'tis now at an end, becauſe That God Almighty can only tell; but yet thus much is certain, that I am juſt now going aboard for *Holland*, and upon ſuch Meaſures as his Majeſty ſeems more reſolved to purſue, than ever I thought to ſee him; in caſe the States will be prevailed with to fall in to them. He will be ſure to have all the Help the Prince can give him, who ſeems to have recovered a new Soul upon this Incident from *France*; which has given at leaſt, the Appearance and Overture of new Meaſures in the World. The Truth is, this Refuſal to reſtore the *Spaniſh* and *Dutch* Towns till the Reſtitution of *Sueden* has been ſo plain Language, that it has at preſent opened many Eyes both here and in *Holland*, which have long been ſhut to all our coſt; but

but whether they are proof againſt all Charms, I will not venture to determine. I can only aſſure your Grace, that the Duke has been the moſt conſtant that can be imagined, in this Opinion of the *French* Deſigns and Intentions to his Majeſty, ever ſince my Lord *Feverſham*'s Return; and declared himſelf the plaineſt that ever I heard, yeſterday at the Foreign Committe: That nothing could be more evident than that *France* intended a Univerſal Monarchy, and nothing but *England* could hinder it; and that without it the King would endanger his Crown. And for his Majeſty, I have ſome particular Reaſons * (which I cannot entertain your Grace with at this Diſtance) to believe that he is perfectly cured of ever hoping any thing well from *France*, and paſt the Danger of being cajoled by any future Offers from thence.

* *The Secret of the* King *and* Dukes *being ſo eager and hearty in their Reſolutions to break with* France *at this Juncture, was as follows.*

France *in order to break the force of the Confederacy, and elude all juſt Conditions of a general* Peace, *reſolved by any means to enter into ſeparate Meaſures with* Holland; *to which end it was abſolutely neceſſary to engage the good Offices of the* King *of* England, *who was look'd upon to be Maſter of the* Peace *whenever he pleas'd. The* Bargain *was ſtruck for either* 3 *or* 400 *Thouſand Pounds. But when all was agreed, Monſieur* Barillon *the* French *Ambaſſador, told the* King; *That he had Orders from his Maſter, before* Payment, *to add a private Article; by which his* Majeſty *ſhould be engaged, never to keep above Eight*

Eight Thouſand men of ſtanding Troops in his Three Kingdoms. This unexpected Propoſal put the King in a Rage, and made him ſay, ——'d's fiſh, does my Brother of *France* think to ſerve me thus? Are all his Promiſes to make me abſolute Maſter of my —— come to this? Or, does he think That a Thing to be done with Eight Thouſand Men.

'Tis poſſible I may be a little miſtaken as to the Sums of Money, *and* Number of Men; *but the main of the* Story *is exactly as I had it from the* Author.

So that I ſee nothing left to ſhake his preſent Reſolutions, but the fear of being well ſeconded in them at home or in *Holland:* The laſt I ſhall ſoon be able to give his Majeſty an Account of; but the firſt I muſt leave to others that are better Acquainted with the Scene, where that Game muſt play. I am of Opinion, both that muſt be plaid ill, and the War managed ill to fail if we go into it: But I have no reaſon to believe but both thoſe may very well befall us. All that is to be ſaid is, that all Men agree the preſent Meaſures are of abſolute neceſſity; ſince no *penchant* to a Peace can bring it about if another will have a War; and if it muſt be at one time or another, though this may be a worſe than any paſt; yet it is a better than any like to come.

This is all I can ſay worth your Grace's Trouble; at leaſt, if this it ſelf be ſo. For I am ſure nothing can be ſo unneceſſary as to repeat any of thoſe Profeſſions I have

ſo long made, and juſtly of my being ever, and with as much Paſſion, as I am ſure it is with Reaſon and Truth,

My LORD,

Your Grace's moſt

Faithful and moſt

Humble Servant.

To Secretary *Williamſon.*

Hague, July 14th. S. N. 1678.

SIR,

I SET Sail on board the *Catharine* Yacht at two a Clock after Noon on *Tueſday*; and landed at *Rotterdam* about the ſame Hour next day. I came immediately to the *Hague*, and went ſtrait to the Prince at *Hounſlardyke*, where I arrived about eight a Clock, and ſtaid till Eleven; and thought it my Duty to give his Majeſty an Account of our firſt D.ſcourſes.

When I had entertained his Highneſs at large with the Subject of my Journey, the Diſpoſitions raiſed in his Majeſty by this laſt unexpected Accident from *France* upon the Point of concluding the Peace: The neceſſity of knowing fully the Mind of the States in order to joyn with them, and the firm Reſolutions his Majeſty had taken upon it, in caſe *France* perſiſted in the Refuſal of the Towns: and this State in not admitting the Peace without it. His Highneſs told me, the laſt Point was the chiefeſt of all; which was, the Firmneſs of his Majeſty's Reſolution in this Matter, upon which all would depend; ſince nothing elſe could diſpoſe either *France* to make the Peace, or this State to any firm Reſolutions of continuing the War. When I had endeavoured, and I think ſucceeded in ſatisfying his Highneſs in this Point, by telling him many Circumſtances in the Game in *England*, as it has played for ſome Months paſt; and many Reaſons his Majeſty had given me to believe how unſatisfyed he had been of late with the dealing from *France*. The Prince told me how glad he was to receive this Notice from me: That, for this laſt Incident in the Peace from *France*, he could not but look upon it as a Thing come down from Heaven, and the happieſt that ever could have fallen

ſallen out, both for his Majeſty and himſelf; conſidering the great Change it was like to make in this State. For, he would tell me in Confidence; that thoſe Diſpoſitions which had been here raiſed in the State, and carryed them ſo far in ſo miſchievous a Peace, had been grounded upon the Weakneſs and Uncertainty of our Conduct in *England*, and upon the Opinion of the contrary in *France*; as well as upon that of their good Intentions to live always fairly with this State, and to content themſelves without *pouſſant* their Conqueſts any farther in *Flanders*. That in caſe the Peace had been made upon thoſe Terms accepted here; the ſame Perſons and Diſpoſitions that brought it about, would certainly have ended all Meaſures between *England* and them, and throw the whole Dependance of this State upon *France*; and that he (the Prince) ſhould not have been able to hinder it. Whereas the laſt Incident had made ſo great a Change in the Minds of the Magiſtrates here; and the People too, that the chief Leaders in thoſe Councils were come to be aſhamed of themſelves, and to confeſs their Miſtakes. And if they ſhould grow to be aſſured of his Majeſty's going into the War, and ſticking to them firmly; he did not doubt but even after a Peace, this State would come to

have their Dependance wholly upon *England*. He ſaid, he believed nevertheleſs; that if *France* ſhould reſtore the Towns before the War broke out into new Action; that this State would not be hindred from accepting the Peace: But of this he ſaw no Appearance, ſince the *French* Ambaſſadors had declared ſo poſſitively to thoſe of this State at *Nimeguen*; that their Maſter was fixed in the Point of not reſtoring them till the Satisfaction of *Sueden*; and that Monſieur *de Luxemburgh* had given his direct Refuſal of ſuffering any more Proviſions to go into *Mons*, till the Peace was ſigned: Upon which he, the Prince, was reſolved to go away to the Army within two Days; but would leave the Penſioner ſo inſtructed, that I might go on with my Negotiations here in his Abſence.

I then told his Highneſs the three Points upon which his Majeſty expected to receive Satisfaction, before he could take a final Meaſure with this State: Which were, the not making Peace without mutual Conſent, or at leaſt the fixing of certain Terms to which the War ſhould extend; and a Peace not be concluded without them: The Prohibition of Commerce with *France* here as well as in *England*, and the mutual Concert of Forces. I added a fourth, which was in the Foot of my Inſtructions;

ſtructions ; that in caſe of any Places loſt on either part, neither ſhould make Peace without being reſtored to the State they were in, at the time of the Treaty's being concluded between us.

The Prince told me, to the laſt there would be no Difficulty. As to the firſt ; this State would never be brought to an Article of not making Peace without mutual Conſent, nor ſeeing ſome Bounds to the War : And therefore thought the Terms of the Treaty of *January* laſt, would be a good Ground to treat upon ; or ſuch other Terms as ſhould be farther agreed to by conſent of Parties.

For the ſecond ; the ſame that Monſieur *Van Lewen* had told his Majeſty in *England*, that it would be very hard to gain it by a direct Convention before the War ; but that it was a thing muſt neceſſarily follow : For in a War, the Bottom of *England* failing in which they now Traded ; all others would be uſed as Enemies by us ; and ſo there could no Trade remain between *France* and this State, while the War laſted.

I told his Highneſs, I did not leave his Majeſty diſpoſed to enter into the War without this Point being fixed. And tho' the Thing ſeemed like to play as his Highneſs had diſcourſed, yet it was of that

Con-

Conſequence to the main Event of the War, that I thought it would be beſt to tell the States what his Majeſty abſolutely reckoned upon; and what they were like to truſt to in this Matter: And to ſhew them, that ſince it was a neceſſary Conſequence of the War, it might as well be a precedent Article between us. His Highneſs conſented, and ſaid; follow this Method.

As to the third, he was of Opinion no Concert of Forces could be made particular between us, but for our own mutual Defence; which is done by our Defenſive Leagues: But for that which is the Defence of *Flanders*; it muſt be made among all the Confederates in ſuch manner as would be moſt conducing to thoſe Ends. That he ſuppoſed this State would bring an Army into the Field of twenty five thouſand Men, beſides their Gariſons: That his Majeſty muſt not go ſo near the Wind in ſuch a War, as to proportion himſelf to the weak and exhauſted Condition of this State (which would go as far however as poſſible they could) but to the Neceſſity of the War, and to what the Parliament would be brought to furniſh upon ſo great an Occaſion, and which they had always had ſo much at heart. That it would be fit to engage ſome of the Princes of *Germany*, but not as this State has done, leaving the Forces under the Command of

their own Princes; but to have them under his Majeſty's Command to act where he pleaſed; which would make his Majeſty Maſter of the War and Peace, and ſet him at the Head of Affairs (which was the Figure *England* ought to make) and draw this State and the Neighbouring Princes of *Germany* into a Dependance upon him.

After this his Highneſs asked me whether the King would not declare the War, till the three Points were concluded with the States here. I anſwered, that I could not ſay any thing certain; but that I was not impowered otherwiſe than upon their agreeing with his Majeſty in them, to conclude finally with the States; ſince his Majeſty would follow their Diſpoſitions, having conſented to the Peace upon their Inſtances; and ſo would hope to reckon upon their Firmneſs in it, and not breaking from him as they had done in their laſt Meaſures. The Prince ſeemed ſomething troubled that his Majeſty would not go into the War before the granting of the three Points: But he concluded I ſhould loſe no time in entring upon the Buſineſs with the States; ſeemed much pleaſed that Monſieur *Van Lewen* was come over with me, and in Sentiments ſo agreeable to thoſe of his Majeſty: Said, he would endeavour to

have

hav him immediately brought into the Committe of Foreign Affairs, though out of Method; but upon pretence of his being come from *England*: That he would be extream glad he could bring Monſieur *Hoeft* into it too: But that could not be, becauſe he was not of the States-General: But that this Incident from *France* had brought him and his Town of *Amſterdam* to be for the War.

Upon this, the Prince ſaid farther, tho' ſeveral Perſons here had appeared to be his Enemies upon the laſt Tranſactions; yet he had been ſo far from treating them ſo, that he had continued his Commerce all along, and had his Converſation ever more with them than his Friends; and by that means they were now grown to underſtand one another.

I have deſired a Conference with the States Commiſſioners, at four this afternoon.

I am ever, &c.

P. S.

JUſt upon the Cloſure of this Letter, the Prince came to me; and deſired me that I would write to his Majeſty, to beg

beg the diſpatching away of thoſe Troops which Monſieur *Van Lewen* told the States, were ordered into *Flanders*: And that thoſe Ships which now are ready may be ſent out in a Squadron to Sea, to give the *French* ſome Jealouſy upon their Coaſts; which might poſſibly make ſome Diverſion now while the Prince marches, and if his Majeſty thinks fit, that ſome of the Troops in *Flanders* may have command to obey the Prince's Orders, in caſe he ſhould have need of them, upon ſome great and preſſing Occaſion.

To

To Mr. Secretary *Williamſon.*

Hague, July 15. 1678.

SIR,

SInce my laſt, which was yeſterday, I have had two Conferences with the States Commiſſioners. In the firſt I expoſed to them my Journey's Subject at this time. I expreſſed to them his Majeſty's Sentiments and Reſolutions in the very Terms of my Inſtructions; and concluded, that his Majeſty, as he would have entered into Meaſures with them for the Guaranty of the Peace, ſo he would for the continuing of he War.

They returned all Acknowledgments that could be, of his Majeſty's generous dealing. They excuſed themſelves upon their own Neceſſities, and the weakneſs of their Allies; particularly in *Flanders*: That they had been extreamly ſurprized to meet with this new Accident from *France*; particularly ſince the Reſtitution of the Towns was tied up to the ſatisfaction of *Sueden*, without ſo much as mentioning what ſatisfaction *Sueden* would accept, and in what time: And indeed without conſenting that *Sueden* ſhould

ſhould accept of ſuch ſatisfaction as perhaps the *Swedes* themſelves would have been contented with. That it now would depend upon his Majeſty, whether they ſhould ſubmit to the Terms of any Peace that *France* would think fit to impoſe upon them.

That indeed upon the Evacuation of the Towns by *France*, the Peace would then be concluded; but there was no hopes of that, ſince their Expreſs brought word that the *French* Ambaſſadors had declared at *Nimeguen*, that they neither had order to give any other Anſwer than they have done already; nor expected to receive any from the King their Maſter: And, that in a private Conference between *Monſieur Colbert* and *Beverning*, the firſt had told him upon the States refuſing to accept the Peace on thoſe Terms; that his Maſter would make them accept it, *Bon grè malgré qu' ils en ayent*. That upon all this they deſired me if I had any farther Lights to give them of his Majeſty's Intentions in caſe the War went on, I would do it.

Hereupon I propoſed to them the Four Points contained in my Inſtructions.

Upon the firſt I found it true what the Prince had told me, that they would not hear of a general and boundleſs conſent: So then I deſcended to the Terms of the laſt Treaty, but with ſuch farther Conditions more advan-

advantageous to the ſafety of *Flanders*, as ſhould be agreed on by the Conſent of both Parties.

Upon the Second they made great Difficulties at firſt: but I put once for all my whole Strength upon this Point; and ſo told them, That the prohibition of Commerce was a Thing which had been long preſſed upon his Majeſty by their Ambaſſador in *England*, that he could not believe they were not equally ſatisfied with it here. But beſides, I told them, the Thing muſt be, and therefore a Convention would do nothing but declare it to the World; and that this would be the greateſt ſtep towards a Peace, it being the only way to perſuade *France* that we were all reſolved to go on with the War; ſince it was evident that *France* had made this laſt Incident, only becauſe they thought this State would accept of any Peace, rather than loſe their Trade any longer.

The Commiſſioners told me, for themſelves, they were ſo far convinced of my Reaſons, that if I had none but them to deal with, I might aſſure my ſelf the Thing would be done. But what their Maſters would ſay to a Thing, in which they had always apprehended an invincible Difficulty (at leaſt, till *England* ſhould have declared the War) they could not tell: But however they promiſed me to give it all the Advantage they could by their Office and Repreſentations. As

As to the Third, about the Proportion of Forces; they ſeemed infinitely unſatisfied, that *England* ſhould go no more than almoſt an even Pace with a State, ſo out of all proportion to us in Strength at the beſt, and ſo exhauſted as this Countrey now is by the ſixth Year of ſo great a War.

They pretended to fear, that this Offer would ſhock their Principals ſo far, as to make them think, that ſince *England* would only protract the War, without Forces enough to make a good Peace, they had as good receive an ill one now as hereafter.

They ſaid ſo much upon this Point, that I was fain to put them in mind of the Conſtitution of *England*, as well as their Riches and Forces; and how much it would depend upon Parliaments, whether his Majeſty would be enabled to proſecute the War with ſuch Vigor as he himſelf perhaps would think neceſſary.

The Fourth Point, of mutual Guaranty to each Party upon the State wherein they ſhould enter into the Treaty, met with no Difficulty, and ſo this Conference ended.

At Two this Afternoon I ſaw the Prince, after having appointed another Conference with the States at Four. He told me the News he had juſt received from *Mons*, of a Skirmiſh much to the Advantage of the Gariſon.

At the Conference at Four this Afternoon the Commiſſioners ſaid they had acquainted the States with our laſt Conference; who were extremely ſenſible of his Majeſty's Favour to them: But that there were Two Points they found of hard digeſtion; The Prohibition of Commerce, and the Proportion of Forces. However, that upon the firſt, and the Reaſons I had urged, the States had reſolved, the Deputies ſhould go to conſult their ſeveral Towns: But for the proportion of Forces, they thought it would be of ill Conſequence to propoſe it to them in thoſe Terms: And therefore had commanded them the Commiſſioners once more to preſs me upon this Point, to enlarge the Proportion on his Majeſty's ſide. I will not trouble you with the Arguments that paſſed on both ſides; but only tell you, that it ended in this Article to be propounded by the Deputies to their Towns; *Qu'en attendant un concert plus particulier touchant les forces que Sa Majeſté & les Alliés engagés en cette guerre contribueront; Sa Majeſté fournira par proviſion un tiers moins de Trouppes en Flandres, & un tiers plus de forces de mer que celles qui ſeront fourni par cet Etat.*) And ſo this Conference ended, and the Succeſs of it muſt be expected on *Munday*.

Monſieur

Monſieur Olivecrans return'd this Day from *England.*

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, July 20. S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

HAving drawn up Matters here to a Head, at leaſt as far as can be till the 5*th* of next Month; and beſides, the Draught of our Treaty, which I yet know not whether I can ſign or no; becauſe I cannot tell whether they will come up to a formal Article, for the prohibition of Commerce; and the Matter will not be of ſo preſſing haſt while they here attend the final Anſwer from *France*: I have diſpatcht away Mr. *Meredith* his Majeſty's Secretary of the Ambaſſy here, by the *Catherine* Yacht, and encharged with my main Pacquet to the Secretary; tho' I ſend a Duplicate both of it and my laſt Diſpatch by the Maſter of the

Pacquetboat's hands that parts the ſame Day. I have charged him with my Compliments in particular to your Lordſhip when he makes his own; and ſhall add as little as I can to your Trouble, beſides the ſhare of what you will have by my main Diſpatch: Only I cannot but mark to your Lordſhip upon what the *French* Ambaſſadors ſaid to the *Dutch*, of their being ſure of *England* upon Treaties being concluded with his Majeſty; that the Prince tells me, *Monſieur d' Avaux* asked *Monſieur Odyke* at *Nimeguen*, when ſuch Treaties were made, whether the Prince were not included, and had not his ſhare in them: And when *Monſieur Odyke* ſaid, not, and that he believed he knew nothing of it, *Monſieur d' Avaux* ſeemed much to wonder at it. I preſume by this ſort of dealing among them, you may reckon upon the Thing's growing publick, whatever may have been private between his Majeſty and them, when the Affair breaks out between us, as it is like to do, unleſs *France* make a Peace contrary to thoſe Heighths wherewith they have hitherto treated us and all the World. If it does, his Majeſty may well put it upon the ſame Score with many others of that kind which have been plaid by *France*; and the publick notice whereof will be the only way to poſſeſs all men both at home and abroad

broad with the belief of his Cure beyond Relapſe. To hear the Tricks and Inſinuations that have been uſed here, eſpecially to make men apprehend the Joint Deſigns of his Majeſty and the Prince upon the Liberty of this People, and the Reſolutions of *France* to defend them, would make any man alive loſe all Patience: Becauſe it looks as if they deal with Men juſt like ſo many Children, and make them believe any Stories of Cocks and Bulls whenever it ſerved their turn; than which nothing can look like ſo great a Scorn; and nothing methinks can be leſs born than that. The Mask is falling off here apace, and the Affairs of *Chriſtendom* will, I doubt not, be put once more into his Majeſty's hands, almoſt by Miracle: But if he lets this Knot ſlip again by any new Fluctuation, or change of Meaſures, 'tis gone for ever, and the Game of *Chriſtendom*, as well as his own, never to be retrieved.

The Penſioner, and *Monſieur Van Lewen* tell me this Evening, that they have certain Intelligence of the Intention of *France*, to ſlight both *Charleroy* and *Oudenarde*, in caſe they come to an evacuation of the Places in *Flanders*; which is directly (as they two ſay) contrary to the expreſs Terms of the Agreement. I ought to be inſtructed what I am to do here in caſe of ſuch an Incident,

dent, even upon the Execution of the Peace. I hear from all hands, the *French* Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen* are horribly unquiet upon the Tranſactions here, And *Monſieur Fagel* told me, he could not but obſerve, that the *French* Ambaſſadors could now come to theirs with this Memorial and all the fair Words; whereas before, they treated them, *de haut en bas, & commes des coquins.* I am ſo tired out with this cruel pinch of Buſineſs ſince my coming over, that though I remember nothing elſe worth your Lordſhip's Trouble, yet if I ſhould, for the preſent, have forgot any material Point, I cannot doubt your Pardon to one that is with ſo great Paſſion, and ſo perfect a Truth,

My LORD,

Your, &c.

To

To Sir *L. Jenkins.*

Hague, July 20th, S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

I Am extremely aſham'd as well as ſorry to find two Letters before me of the 10*th* and 28*th* from your Lordſhip, without having the Satisfaction of giving you any Accounts from hence by the laſt Poſt, the fault whereof I muſt needs lay upon Mr. *Meredith*, and leave him to excuſe himſelf as well as he can; yet I will ſay, not to leſſen that Fault, but only that Misfortune, that I could not have found very much to have informed your Lordſhip from hence on *Sunday* laſt, beſides only the Subject of my Inſtructions, and the aſſurance of my having purſued them here. For the firſt, I preſume your Lordſhip had the knowledge of them given you from the Secretary's Office, about the time of my Diſpatch; and for the other I will ſo far reckon upon your Lordſhip's Juſtice, as to have believ'd it of me, whether I gave you part of it or no; however, finding my ſelf this Morning in poſſeſſion of one hour of leiſure after the ſharpeſt pinch

of Buſineſs ever ſince I came over, that ever yet fell upon me in my Life; and not being aſſured that the Secretary's Office acquitted themſelves to your Lordſhip as they ought to have done upon this Occaſion, and as I am ſure was the King's Intention, I will tell your Lordſhip that the King having laid his Abſolute Commands upon me about a Month ſince to go away for *Nimeguen*, and aſſiſt there at the Concluſion of the Peace (which ſeem'd then ſo near) and to uſe my beſt Offices, that no Difficulty ſhould ariſe between the *French* and *Spaniards*, and thereby the *French* ſhould have no occaſion left of making any farther Progreſs of their Arms in *Flanders*, I ſubmitted to his Majeſty's Pleaſure, tho' I had often reſolved ſince I went laſt over never to turn my Face Northward any more; but I ſaw then no other way left of ſaving that little which remaineth in *Flanders*, conſidering the Circumſtances that plaid here in *Holland* as well as at home; and your Lordſhip knows how long and how often I have told you and my other Friends, that with the loſs of that Country, all my Politicks are ended.

When I was ready, and within twenty four Hours of embarking upon this Errand, your Lordſhip's Letter came to his Majeſty's hands, giving him an Account of that new

Incident

Incident from *France*, which alone in appearance could have obſtructed that Peace, by their refuſing to evacuate the Places in *Flanders* till the Reſtitution in *Sweden*; I never ſaw the King more ſurprized than at this news, who ſent to me immediately to acquaint me with it: and I muſt needs ſay, that I found both the King and the Duke growing ſo angry upon it, that I thought it my part to temper them as far as I could, deſiring them not to reaſon, or at leaſt, not to conclude upon a thing which was yet uncertain; but in the firſt place to be aſſured either from the *French* Ambaſſador, or elſe from *France*, whether that Thing was true or no; becauſe all Steps or Reſolutions taken upon it, would be forc'd to change, in caſe *France* ſhould diſown their Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*, in what they advanced there upon this Occaſion. His Majeſty was pleaſed to follow this Method, and that very Night ſpoke to Mr. *Barillon* about it but finding him to own no knowledge of it, and much leſs Inſtructions upon it, and indeed not ſeeming to believe the thing, two Expreſſes were diſpatch'd away into *France* the two following Days, one by *Monſieur Barillon* for his own Inſtruction, and the other by his Majeſty to Mr. *Mountague* for his clear Information, upon the Point, with Orders to draw a ſudden and poſitive Anſwer upon it from that Court. The

The Day after, upon application of the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors repreſenting the Thing to his Majeſty in the ſame Colours, and with the Circumſtance your Lordſhip had done before, together with the Reſolution taken upon it by the States their Maſters, not to ſubmit to ſuch a new and unreaſonable Impoſition, by which they were like to loſe all the good they pretended from the Peace; and deſiring his Majeſty's Protection in it, the King thought it a Matter of that weight and conſequence, that he reſolved immediately to diſpatch away my Lord *Sunderland* to know fully the mind of *France* in this Matter, and with Orders not to ſtay above five Days in *Paris*, for his Anſwer: His Lordſhip was ready to be gone, and within ſix hours of parting from the Town, when not only Mr. *Barillon*'s Expreſs as well as his Majeſty's having returned with an Abſolute Anſwer from *France*, that they were reſolved not to evacuate the Towns; a ſecond Expreſs arrived from Mr. *Mountague*, not only to confirm the former Anſwer, but to let his Majeſty know that the King of *France* had deſired Mr. *Mountague* that no Perſon might be ſent over upon that Occaſion, ſince it was a thing in which he was reſolved, and which therefore would bear no reaſoning.

Upon

Upon this Diſpatch his Majeſty immediately ſtop'd that of my Lord *Sunderland*, and reſolv'd to haſten mine, with new Inſtructions to aſſure this State, how much his Majeſty was ſurpriz'd at this new Incident from *France*, how entirely he approv'd their Reſolution already taken upon it, and how firmly he was reſolved to ſtand by them in it: I was charged likewiſe with Powers and Orders to conclude immediately upon Meaſures between his Majeſty and this State, in caſe of the Wars going on, provided I could firſt agree with them in theſe three Points: The Firſt, Of not making the Peace without mutual Conſent; or at leaſt, without the Conditions of *January* laſt: The Second, A joining with his Majeſty in the Prohibition of *French* Commerce: And Laſtly, A Concert of Forces. I could not diſobey his Majeſty in this Second Commiſſion, tho' I was infinitely diſcourag'd by many Circumſtances, and moſt of all by Mr. *Hyde* and *Godolphin*, who told me plainly, that Matters were gone on too far here to be retrieved; at leaſt, that they were ſure it could never be done, without his Majeſty's firſt declaring the War; which he could not reſolve upon till he was firſt ſure of the Mind of *Holland* in that Caſe; however, I came over, and what hath paſt here will be better told your Lordſhip by the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors,

ſadors, than by me, with whom I know you live in Confidence, and will do ſo the more upon this Occaſion: Beſides, I had rather leave it to them, becauſe I both want time, and ſhould be forc'd often to ſpeak of my ſelf in it, which I ever love to avoid. The upſhot of all hitherto is, that the States ſeem to reſolve an immediate Anſwer ſhall be given to the *French* Ambaſſadors laſt Memorial at *Nimeguen*, and that a poſitive Anſwer from *France* ſhall be deſired by the *5th* of next Month, upon the Point of evacuating the Places; that in the mean time the Meaſures ſhall be concluded between his Majeſty and this State in caſe of *France*'s perſiſting to refuſe it; and the very Towns of *Amſterdam*, *Leyden* and *Rotterdam*, as well as all the reſt of this Province, ſeem abſolutely and unanimouſly reſolv'd in caſe of ſuch a Refuſal to go on with the War in conjunction with his Majeſty, as well as the reſt of the Allies, and upon the ſtricteſt Meaſures between them. This Reſolution I thought would have paſt this day, but the final Reſolution is referr'd till to morrow Morning: However, I would not let this Poſt go away without telling your Lordſhip thus much, and adding for your better light, that I find the Prince infinitely ſatisfied with the States Diſpoſitions and Carriage in this whole Tranſaction ſince I came

came over, and that I left the Duke so violently bent upon a War with *France*, that he told the King publickly at the Foreign Committee, in my hearing, the Day before I came away, after repeating several Circumstances of the *French* ill usage and intention towards him, that nothing could be more evident than the *French* Design of an Universal Monarchy, that nothing but *England* could hinder it; and that his Majesty without engaging in it, would hazard his own Crown and Safety, as well as that of *Christendom*;

I am ever,

Your Lordship's

most Faithful

Humble Servant.

W. Temple.

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, July 25th. 1678.

My LORD,

THough the other Letter be of a ſtaler Date, yet upon peruſal again I found ſome things in it that might be proper enough for your Lordſhip to know, and ſo I am content to let it go. I ſhall only here give your Lordſhip Joy of this Negotiation atchieved under your Miniſtry; which is by all on this ſide eſteemed a much greater than another whereon I have known ſome former Miniſters in *England* value themſelves very much, tho' not very long. That which may poſſibly make this the more acceptable to his Majeſty, is the evidence of ſo much Art and Induſtry with which the *French* have of late uſed all the Practices imaginable to gain this State; upon the Belief whereof I doubt they have not conſidered us the more, or uſed us the better. For, I do not find that the *French* Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen* took any notice of Sir *L. Jenkins* in the delivery of their late Memorial there; or that he came to be poſſeſſed of it otherwiſe than from the

Dutch

Dutch Ambaſſadors. And ſince I came over, *Monſieur d' Eſtrades* has written ſeveral Letters to the Towns of *Amſterdam*, *Rotterdam*, *Dort* and *Leyden*, to perſuade them, that the Prince of *Orange* and his Friends will have no Peace: And the Penſioner has ſurprized an Original Letter from *Monſieur Louvois* to *Monſieur d' Eſtrades*; by which he bids him tell thoſe of his Correſpondents in *Holland*, from whom the laſt Advice came; that in caſe they gave him no better, he would certainly ſtop their Penſions. The beſt on't is, the Sore ſeems to be broken, and to have run out ſo, as to leave the Body more healthful than before: And if God bleſs the Prince in this one Enterprize of *Mons*, he will be greater here than ever any of his Anceſtors were: I ſuppoſe one good Fruit more may ariſe from this Affair: Which is, that I do not believe any man who ſees the Courſe of my Diſpatches, can think there are any more Tricks in the Buſineſs; nor do I ſee why Men ſhould be ſick any longer of that imaginary Diſeaſe in *England*, after they are cured here. And if the Cure ſhould be wrought at a time in both places, the World is ſafe, let the War go on; if not, it may be loſt ſtill: And I know not whether I ſhall have Charity enough to pray God forgive them that prove the Occaſion of it. How all this is

received

received in Court or Country, I ſhould be glad to know from your Lordſhip: For, after all the Compliments made me here upon it, I am from thence to judge what I may have deſerved by the infinite, perpetual Trouble and Application it has forced me upon ſince I came over.

I ſend your Lordſhip a Copy incloſed of my diſpatch this day to Mr. Secretary; which Mr. *Meredith* reſolves firſt to put into your Lordſhip's hands: And whatever other Obſervances you can receive from him, I am ſure will be rendred to your Lordſhip there and here, upon this and all other Occaſions: Since he can have learned nothing elſe, in the Houſe of a Perſon that is, and ever ſhall be, with a conſtant and equal Paſſion and Truth,

My LORD,

Your &c.

To

To the KING.

Hague, July 25th. S. N. 1678.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

HAving ſince my coming laſt over, not only drawn all things here to a Head, but this day reduc'd them into Form; and ſigned a Treaty with the States according to my Inſtructions, upon their Conſent to all the four Points given me in charge. I preſume your Majeſty will find it as much to your Satisfaction as all Perſons here believe it, to the Honour and Greatneſs of your Crown. Which is all I ſhall ſay upon a Subject, wherein I have had ſo much Part my ſelf. However, you will not I hope be diſpleaſed to know, that this Affair ſo ended, has left the Prince of *Orange*, in his own Opinion, a happy Man; and in all others here, a great Prince once more: This State being more fallen in than ever with his Highneſs, and both of them more than ever into a Dependance upon your Majeſty. I pray God you may uſe ſo great a Conjuncture, ſo as may be moſt for your own Glory and Felicity, as well as thoſe of your Crowns;

received in Court or Country, I ſhould be glad to know from your Lordſhip: For, after all the Compliments made me here upon it, I am from thence to judge what I may have deſerved by the infinite, perpetual Trouble and Application it has forced me upon ſince I came over.

I ſend your Lordſhip a Copy incloſed of my diſpatch this day to Mr. Secretary; which Mr. *Meredith* reſolves firſt to put into your Lordſhip's hands: And whatever other Obſervances you can receive from him, I am ſure will be rendred to your Lordſhip there and here, upon this and all other Occaſions: Since he can have learned nothing elſe, in the Houſe of a Perſon that is, and ever ſhall be, with a conſtant and equal Paſſion and Truth,

My LORD,

Your &c.

To

To the KING.

Hague, July 25th. S. N. 1678.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

HAving ſince my coming laſt over, not only drawn all things here to a Head, but this day reduc'd them into Form; and ſigned a Treaty with the States according to my Inſtructions, upon their Conſent to all the four Points given me in charge. I preſume your Majeſty will find it as much to your Satisfaction as all Perſons here believe it, to the Honour and Greatneſs of your Crown. Which is all I ſhall ſay upon a Subject, wherein I have had ſo much Part my ſelf. However, you will not I hope be diſpleaſed to know, that this Affair ſo ended, has left the Prince of *Orange*, in his own Opinion, a happy Man; and in all others here, a great Prince once more: This State being more fallen in than ever with his Highneſs, and both of them more than ever into a Dependance upon your Majeſty. I pray God you may uſe ſo great a Conjuncture, ſo as may be moſt for your own Glory and Felicity, as well as thoſe of your Crowns;

and then I have my End and my Reward.

Having charged Mr. *Meredith*, your Majeſty's Secretary of the Ambaſſy here, with the Delivery of the Treaty, and my Diſpatch to Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*: I could not but give him this Occaſion of laying himſelf at your Majeſty's Feet; and ask your Pardon for the long Troubles I have been forced to give your Majeſty, ſince my Arrival here; as well as aſſure you at the ſame time, that no Man alive can be with a ſincerer Truth, or greater Devotion than I am, and ſhall be ever,

SIR,

Your Majeſty's moſt

Loyal and moſt

Obedient Subject

and Servant.

To

To Mr. *H*-------*e*.

Hague, July 29th. S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

I Heard by your Servants here, that you were grown to be ſo ill at Court, as to be gone down into the Country to a ſcurvy piece of Land you had bought there: And I, like a true Courtier, upon this news would not take the pains to write to a Man whoſe Affairs went ſo ill: But for fear my Intelligence ſhould prove as falſe as what Monſieur *d' Eſtrades* had received of late from *Amſterdam*; and that you ſhould not only be well at Court ſtill, but the Land you went to ſee, ſhould prove to be one of the beſt Mannors of *England*; I could no longer omit aſſuring Your Excellency of my humble Services, and of the Joy wherewith I ſhall either obey your Commands here, or receive your Protection at *Nimeguen*, as his Majeſty's Orders ſhall either keep me in this Place, or call us both thither: Of which I have yet no certain Proſpect.

Now I have made you my ſcurvy Compliments, if you pleaſe we will leave them

all off: And in the common Style of Friends, I will firſt tell you, that I have had the good Luck to end the Buſineſs with which his Majeſty charged me here, extreamly to the Prince of *Orange*'s Satisfaction, and as much to that of the States; excepting ſome few, who by ſhewing their Diſcontent at it, have diſcovered themſelves to be too plainly and too deep in the *French* Intereſt, to be looked upon any longer as Dealers here. Now, I would be glad to know from you as a Friend, and not as a Miniſter, what is ſaid or thought of it at Court, and whether they continue in the mind I left them; or what Points the Wind may have tacked about ſince; and what my Lord *Sunderland*'s Buſineſs at preſent is into *France*; which is the great Subject of Talk and Reflections here. I would be glad likewiſe to know your Conjectures there, whether *France* will come to the Peace or no; without refuſing any longer to evacuate the Towns, which is the preſent Wager current at *Amſterdam*: And my Lord Ambaſſador *Jenkins* according to the Lights of *Nimeguen*, was abſolutely of Opinion yeſterday they would.

There never was ſo Deſolate a Place as the *Hague* at this time: And yet I was content the Prince ſhould go, becauſe I never ſaw any Body go in ſo good Humour

mour as both he and all about him, upon the concluſion made here the Night before; by which his Friends take him to make a greater Figure than ever he did ſince he came to the Government: But this will depend in ſome Meaſure too, upon the Figure he will make in *Flanders*; where I have no very good Opinion of the relief of *Mons*, upon the joyning of Mareſchal *Humieres* and *Schomberg* with the Duke of *Luxemburg*: Of all which, you will ſooner receive an Account by *Flanders* than from hence, where we have had ſince *Monday* laſt a perfect Vacation of all Affairs; ſo that you ſhall have no farther Trouble beyond the aſſurances of my being ever, and truly,

Your, &c.

I Gave Mr. *Meredith* order to wait upon you from me, and to give you any Accounts you deſired of all that had paſſed here.

To Mr. *G*---------*n*.

Hague, July 29th. S. N. 1678.

SIR,

I Had not time to write to you by Mr. *Meredith*; which was due not only to you, but to the incloſure of a Letter the Prince had given me for you, upon the aſſurance that I intended to write to you by that Diſpatch. All I could do then, was to order Mr. *Meredith* to wait upon you particularly from me; and both aſſure you of my Service, and give you any Account you cared for being troubled with, of my late Negotiation here. I knew you were ſo much a Friend of the Prince as to be glad of what he was ſo much pleaſed, and all about him ſo exalted with here; becauſe they never took him to be in ſo great Credit or Authority as upon the Concluſion of this Buſineſs; and thereby the Dependance of this State being wholly caſt upon *England*, which was juſt upon the Point of being thrown into *France*: And thereby leaving the Prince in ſuch a Figure, as I believe would have broke his Heart if it had proved without Remedy. What

you

you ſay or think of it on that ſide, I am yet to know; and whether you continue in the Mind I left you, or how the Weather has changed. And though you promiſed to have my Statue ſet up if I could bring this State to take their Meaſures with us before we had declared the War, eſpecially upon the Point of prohibiting Commerce; yet after that and all other Points attained perfectly to his Majeſty's mind, I will only expect that you keep me from being hanged up in effigie; if all ſhould be changed, and my Lord *Sunderland* ſhould have more to do in *France* than I have here. This is the preſent Subject of wiſe Talk in this place: And, as both Mr. *Hyde* and you concluded with me at my coming away, that one great ground of the ill and haſty Paces made here of late to a Peace, was the Belief they were in of ours in *England*; ſo I believe you will conclude with me that if we let this knot ſlip but once more, it is never to be retrieved again; and they will run into *France* without any ſtop, upon a Diſdain of all our Conduct in *England*, and the Deſpair of our proving conſtant to their Intereſt, or our own. In ſhort, the King is once more at the Head of all the Affairs in *Chriſtendom*: What uſe he will make of it, is in his own Hands, and thoſe of his Miniſters;

and Servants that are about him. Among whom, as I know no Man that wiſhes better at heart to his Majeſty and his Kingdoms than you do: So I am ſure no Man can wiſh better to you in all Points than I do; nor more deſire the Occaſions of expreſſing the ſincere Truth and Paſſion as well as Eſteem; wherewith I am and ſhall be always,

SIR,

Tours, &c.

To the Duke of *ORMOND*.

Hague, *Aug.* 1ſt. S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

SINCE my Arrival here, I have had the hardeſt Pinch of Buſineſs that ever befell me in my Life. I have concluded and ſigned a Treaty between his Majeſty and the States; by which he is obliged to enter into the War, and they to continue it, and not make Peace without much greater Conditions; if *France* does not agree to thoſe the States accepted (about

bout a Month ſince) by the 11*th* of this Month. The Prince would not ſtir till this Treaty was ſigned; believing all his own Intereſts, and the greateſt of the Crown of *England* to depend upon it. After it was done, he went away immediately to the Army; a great Prince in all others opinions, and a happy one in his own; which he had been far from in both for ſome Months paſt. The *French* have uſed all the Artifices imaginable to hinder theſe Meaſures between us; and to take them ſeparately with this State in our Excluſion, and even that of the Prince of *Orange*. Their laſt was two days ſince by a Memorial of their Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*; offering, that the King of *France* would advance himſelf as far as St. *Quintin*, to meet any Deputies the States would ſend thither, and treat with them in Perſon. The States having yeſterday conſidered with me upon it, have refuſed the Offer; deſired a poſitive Anſwer upon evacuating the Places in *Flanders*; and let the *French* Ambaſſadors know, they ſhould not be many days *en leur entier* to receive it. This is a ſtrange Change of Style in the World, and the King is once more at the Head of Affairs in *Chriſtendom*. What Uſe we ſhall make of this Conjuncture, is in the Stars: Your Grace and I will not

venture

venture to gueſs, conſidering how well we know our Court: But I am ſure we ſhall joyn in our wiſhes; and mine ſhall ever be for the good Health and good Fortunes that your Grace can propoſe to your ſelf; ſince no Man can be with greater Paſſion nor Truth than I am, and ſhall be ever,

My LORD,

Your Grace's &c.

To Mr. Secretary *Williamſon.*

Hague, Aug. 1ſt. S. N. 1678.

SIR,

YEſterday about Noon came an Expreſs from Sir *L. Jenkins*, bringing me the incloſed Memorial; inviting the States to ſend their Deputies to St. *Quintin*, in *Picardy*; where his moſt *Chriſtian* Majeſty will in Perſon meet with them. I looked upon it as a Reſolution in *France* grounded upon Advices from hence; as believing that ſo great a Condeſcenſion as this of his moſt *Chriſtian* Majeſty, could not but give

new

new Life to Monſieur *Pats* and his Party. That the Effect of it would be, to draw this State into a Negotiation not only ſeparate from all their Allies, but even from all Offices or Intervention of his Majeſty as Mediator; and make way for ſome of the conſiderable Perſons of this State, to take particular Meaſures with the Court of *France*.

This morning Monſieur *Van Lewen* was with me, and we Diſcourſed of this new Memorial. He ſaid, the Thing ſeemed of the ſame Piece with all that had come of late from *France*; and to be all but an Amuſement while he purſued the taking of *Mons*, and the Hopes that this State would ſtill fall into ſome Expedient in the Point of evacuating the Places. That he was of Opinion, the States would make ſome Reflection upon this new Offer; particularly the *French* Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen* having ſaid to the States, that by this way of treating; Affairs might be more advanced in twenty four Hours, than in as many Days by other Hands. He told me that the States-General had reſolved; that their Commiſſioners for ſecret Affairs ſhould come to me, and ask my Opinion upon this new Propoſition; which he (Monſieur *Van Lewen*) deſired to know before hand.

I told

I told him I was ſure, ſending to St. *Quintin* could do no good; ſince, if they were reſolved, as he ſaid they were, to inſiſt upon the Evacuation of the Towns without farther Expedient; that might be better done at *Nimeguen*. That beſides, it would be leſs reſpect to a great King, to draw him ſo far in Perſon only to receive a peremptory Meſſage from them, without Inſtructions to treat; or fall into Temperaments upon it. That thirdly; ſince before the Treaty ſigned with his Majeſty, they had reſolved not to ſend to *Paris*, nor *Ghent*: I thought, ſince the Treaty concluded they could not ſend to St. *Quintin*, and thereby exclude his Majeſty from any Part in the Negotiation; either as Mediator or otherwiſe, without his Majeſty's Conſent; which could not be had but by ſending into *England*, ſince I had no Inſtructions upon this new Incident. That this could not be performed within the Time prefixed in the Treaty, of the 11*th* of this Month: And therefore my Opinion was, that they ſhould anſwer this Memorial by another ſhort one from their Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*; expreſſing, that they could come to no new Negotiations without the Communication and Conſent of his Majeſty; with whom they had entered into Meaſures upon the late Incident

in

in the Negotiation of the Peace. I told Monſieur *Van Lewen*, that this was *le grand et le beau chemin*; and that I did not ſee how they could take any other, conſidering their Tyes to his Majeſty and *Spain*; who had joyned them in accepting the Peace.

Monſieur *Van Lewen* fell in with my Opinion, but could not pretend to gueſs what the Advice of the ſeveral Towns would be upon it: After this he left me. I then began to reflect what Iſſue this Affair would have had, in caſe the Treaty had not been ſigned before it came; which it muſt not have been if I had firſt received your Orders of the 16*th* current; by which I found his Majeſty inſiſted upon the Prohibition of Commerce to be made a Part of the Treaty by particular Article or Convention; which the Prince, Penſioner, and Commiſſioners told me, could not be any ways hoped for from the Province of *Holland*; ſo as upon it the Treaty muſt of neceſſity have demurred; which imported as much as the whole Iſſue of this Negotiation, in caſe it had not been concluded before the Prince left this Place.

While I was in theſe laſt Thoughts, and had purſued my Letter as far as this laſt Period; I received yours of the 11*th* upon the late Treaty's having been produced before

before his Majeſty at a Foreign Committee, with ſo many Faults laid to my Charge in this Tranſaction, that I have reaſon to be as much mortified as you can wiſh me; though you are pleaſed to ſay, ſome of the Faults you find are without preſent Order.

The three chief Points you have Orders to except to, and to deſire a Change or Elucidation upon them; I will anſwer as well as I can.

As to that of Commerce; I was left by the large Period upon it in my Inſtructions to more Liberty than I have taken; and the Prince, Penſioner, and Commiſſioners all aſſured me, it was not to be gained by Convention before hand; but would certainly follow upon this Reſolution of the States, and laſt as long as the War: And the Prince took upon him to hinder the failing of it from the Emperor or *Spain*; though that Clauſe was put in to keep them up to the Rigour of the ſaid Prohibition.

For that of the Concert of the Forces, I told you the Commiſſioners ſaid, it would be agreed to in very few days here: And I charged my Secretary to let you know, that they had agreed upon it by Proviſion in that very Number of Land Forces I had before mentioned: And I reſolved upon the return of the Penſioner here to Town, to come to a Specification between us of them.

them, both at Land and Sea: So that I could never have imagined this as an Omiſſion; ſince I was tyed to nothing in my Inſtructions, farther than the Proportions of three to two.

For that of the Reſtriction to *Europe*; I muſt confeſs it a Fault, ſince you ſay it is found ſo: But I told you then, it was a Point I had no Light given me in at all from you or any body elſe in *England*: That all the Practices I had ever had there, confirmed me in it, as well as the Penſioner; who told me, this State had never made any Treaty that extended beyond *Europe*.

Thus I confeſs, I thought I had followed my Inſtructions upon all theſe Points, and did not act with ſo much punctilious Caution as I ought, it may be, to have done: For the Conjuncture was ſo Critical, and to be concluded before the Prince's going, or elſe to be loſt; which was to decide whether this State ſhould fall into a Dependance upon *England* or *France*.

This is a Point the *French* value and purſue at another rate, of which there needs no other Teſtimony than this *Demarche* of St. *Quintin*.

But, ſince the greateſt Service I could ever hope to do his Majeſty or the Crown of *England*, proves to be a Fault; I humbly ask his Majeſty's Pardon, and ſhall learn hereafter to tye my ſelf as ſtrictly to my Orders, as a Clarke of the Office ought to do, ſince I find ſo ſevere a Laſh hang over me: Though I am, I confeſs, of Opinion that no Prince or State can ever tye up ſo ſtrictly, either a General or an Ambaſſador; or give them Reaſon to act in perpetual Fear, without loſing the Greateſt Occaſions in the World, either in Treaties or in War. And ſo I end this unpleaſant Subject,

and am, &c.

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague, Aug. 2*d.* S. N. 1678.

SIR,

LAST Night I acquainted the Penſioner with what had paſſed between me and the Commiſſioners, and the Reſolution we were come to: Which was, that it was not fit to ſend to St. *Quintin*, nor

nor they could not do it without the Participation of *England.*

He ſaid it was very well, and that this Artifice of *France*, as it was the laſt, ſo it was the greateſt, and that we had but this Blow to ward: That if our Treaty had not been concluded, he ſhould have been in pain, but did not fear now; and ſaid, the States of *Holland* were to aſſemble upon it this Morning.

This Morning at Five I received a Letter from the Prince, expreſſing the greateſt Pain in the World upon this laſt Memorial at *Nimeguen*; deſiring me to do all that was poſſible to hinder any Deputation to St. *Quintin* or *Ghent*, and to ſpeak my ſelf to all Perſons here that I thought would be inclined to it. At Five the Penſioner came to me, and gave me an Account of the Reſolution being taken both in the States of *Holland*, and after in the States General, upon the *French Memorial:* That they could not ſend to St. *Quintin* or *Ghent*, having nothing at all to propoſe: That they deſired the *French* Anſwer poſitive upon the Point of evacuating the Places, and ſigning the Peace: That they ſhould not be many Days *en leur entier* to receive it: And this to be ſent to the *French* Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*, with a Private Letter to the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors, to let them know, that the 11*th* of this Month

was the laſt Day they ſhould be able to attend their Anſwer.

He told me, all this was agreed unanimouſly at laſt; though ſome inſiſted long upon writing a Letter to the Moſt *Chriſtian* King; but not that it ſelf without firſt asking my Conſent to it; deferring as much as was poſſible to the Meaſures they had taken with *England.*

He was in ſo good humour upon this Occaſion, that I thought I could never have a better to put him upon giving his Majeſty the ſatisfaction you deſire in thoſe Points of the Treaty: And ſo I preſt him upon it in the way you order me.

Upon the firſt of Commerce, his Anſwer was, *Qu' il êtoit impoſſible de le faire par convention, mais qu' il êtoit auſſi impoſſible que cela pût manquer pendant la guerre, & qu' il m' en aſſûreroit, cette reſolution des Etats ne pouvant être changée ſans une nouvelle; & il pouvoit toûjours empêcher cette nouvelle reſolution,*

For the Concert of Forces, he ſaid, that by the 11*th* of this Month, when we ſhould ſee whether it were War or Peace, the States would enter with me into a Specification of Forces for Sea and Land; and that he thought, Fourty Ships would be the utmoſt that they ſhould furniſh at preſent:

preſent: That according as Occaſion ſhould happen, there would be other Concerts hereafter.

For the Third, for the *Guarentée mutuelle* beyond *Europe*, he ſaid, that he would not ſay poſitively, that in the Treaty, according as you alledged, there was not ſuch a Clauſe, becauſe of the Extremity they were in when *Spain* engaged with them: But confeſſed he had told me, this State never engaged beyond *Europe*: That if it were ſo, he would uſe all the Endeavours he could, to have it done: But conſidering the Strength and Populouſneſs of our Plantations, and the Weakneſs of the *French*, he could not believe but that we ſhould beat them wholly out of the *Weſt-Indies*.

He then deſired me with the greateſt Earneſtneſs in the World, that I would repreſent to his Majeſty the ſtopping, and thereby ſpoiling ſo great an Affair by any Difficulties, in ſuch Points as theſe. That he would write to *Monſieur Van Beuninghen* to that purpoſe, if it were not that I told him, how his Majeſty kept the whole as a Secret to all but him and the Prince. That for their part,

their Ratifications would be ready on *Thurſday* next.

His Majeſty has the whole Matter before him; and I deſire my Inſtructions may be clear and poſitive; which I ſhall not fail of obeying.

I am, &c.

To

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Auguſt 2d. S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

I Will not trouble your Lordſhip with any thing that goes in my Diſpatch this Poſt to Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*, becauſe I know you have your ſhare in it. I will only tell you, that after all the Applauſes have been giv'n me here upon the perfection of the laſt Treaty; and among all the Accounts given this laſt Poſt from *England*, of his Majeſty's and the general ſatisfaction upon it there; I received a Letter from *Secretary Williamſon*, that found twenty Faults with it, and allows nothing in it that was good. I was the more ſurprized, becauſe your Lordſhip had let me know the Poſt before, that every thing ſtood upon the ſame Foot it did when I left *England*; and I had obſerved, that our Forces were ſince come over into *Flanders*; by which, and by the *French* demarches here and at *Nimeguen*, where they take no notice of his Majeſty's Mediation in all that paſſes between them and the *Dutch*; I concluded all Confidence irreparably broke between us and

France; eſpecially the Uſage of our Troops there, ſucceeding their Inſtances about diſbanding them at home. All this conſidered, I could not imagine there could have been no good in a Treaty that drew the dependence of this State wholly from *France* and caſt it upon *England*, in ſuch a Conjuncture, and about which his Majeſty was ſo ſolicitous when I left him. I concluded this muſt be perſonal in Secretary *Williamſon*; and I have written to him accordingly, and juſtify'd my ſelf; as I am ſure, if there was a Fault, it muſt have been in the lameneſs of his Inſtructions; which no Ambaſſador can act by, and upon which I call Mr. *Hyde*, Mr. *Godolphin*, and Sir *Lyonel Jenkins* to witneſs; and your Lordſhip too, upon this ſingle Period in his laſt Inſtructions the Poſt before laſt, upon the time of our declaring the War, which I was much preſt about here, and was fain to fence off as I could. His Words are theſe, of *July* 16*th*, "*As to the time of his Majeſty's declaring the* "*War, That you know is to be taken upon the* "*time of the ſigning the Treaty; and not at all* "*to depend on the time ſet for the* French's "*refuſal of this farther Offer, otherwiſe than* "*as that ſhall relate to the concluding of the* "*propoſed Treaty between his Majeſty and* "*Holland.* My Secretary and I were both very long buſy, not to find out the Senſe, but

but his own meaning of it; and were fain to give it abſolutely over; which happened to me ſo often, that 'tis nothing new from that hand. Theſe Laſhes and Mortifications are as little ſo too, having very often befallen me from him; but never once from my Lord *Arlington*, Secretary *Trevor*, or Secretary *Coventry*, in Ten Years Service under their Correſpondence. I ſhould be very glad to know from your Lordſhip whether I am miſtaken or no in believing this Uſage Perſonal from him: For if it be from his Majeſty, I ſhall take it for another Sign, and make another uſe of it. In the mean time, I beg your Lordſhip to take care, that my Inſtructions may be clear hereafter, or at leaſt, intelligible; for I am reſolved to do nothing without them, let what will happen. One thing more I beg your Lordſhip to get altered by his Majeſty's Command: Which is, that I may have conſtant Advice from one of the Secretary's Office, of all that paſſes in *England*; at leaſt, what can relate to Affairs here. I believe no Ambaſſador before ever failed of at leaſt a Paper of Occurrences every Poſt; and in all the time I have been here, I have not received one Line; ſo that I knew neither of my Lord *Sunderland*'s going, my Lord *Feverſham*'s, nor the Marquiſs *Burgomaine*'s, otherwiſe than by the Deputies or other

Miniſters here; much leſs, of *du Cros*'s Overture in *England*, that the Towns ſhould be reſtored by *France*, in caſe this State would give their Guaranty, that none of the Allies ſhould aſſiſt the Enemies of *Sweden*. I mention this, becauſe tho' it be as impracticable as other things of that kind, that have come from *France*; yet it has made a great Buz among halfwitted People here, when it came to be conſidered upon this laſt Memorial of the *French*, whether any Expedient could be offered by *France* in the Point of evacuating the Towns.

The Wiſe conclude all to be Artifice, and never a greater than this Offer of the Moſt *Chriſtian* King, to come in Perſon to St. *Quintin*, to meet and treat with the Deputies of this State. They conſider the Conſequence of ſuch a King's cajoling, or his Miniſters corrupting any that ſhould go; but chiefly of amuſing theſe people ſo far as to break the Times, and thereby the Meaſures concluded with us. They believe the Bottom of all to be the amuſing either Us, or *Holland*, till upon the approach of Winter, and the *German* Armies going into Quarters, they may draw all their *Forces* out of *Germany*, and make one puſh for the Conqueſt of *Flanders*. In the mean time, that which is ſown by them here with ſuch Induſtry, is, Firſt, that nothing can defend this State

and

and Country from all its Neighbours, but *France*; nor conſequently give them perpetual Peace and Trade: Then, that *France* can never have any Deſign upon their Liberty, becauſe they can make more uſe of their Men and Ships while they are great and flouriſhing, than they can do by their growing weak and poor, which muſt follow the conquering and ſuppreſſing their Liberties. Then, that they are no Rival to them in Trade, which *England* is, and muſt ever be; and that all the danger to their Liberties is from his Majeſty and the Prince of *Orange*, upon concert between them, in Relation to *England* and this Country; and now laſtly, upon this Incident at *Nimeguen*, they ſay it all aroſe only upon a Viſit made by Count *Oxenſtern* to the *French* Ambaſſadors when they were ready to ſign the Peace; deſiring them it might not be done without a Proviſion for *Sweden*: And that no Surprize could be greater than that of the King of *France*, when he heard the Peace was delayed by that Incident. In ſhort, they are extreme ſenſible of having made a horrible ill Pace, and would fain recover it, but find it very difficult, and, I believe, will not be able, unleſs we help them; which, whether we ſhall or know, your Lordſhip beſt knows.

I ſend

I ſend you the laſt *French Memorial* in Print; for the ſame Day they communicated it to the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors, they diſperſed numerous Printed Copies among all theſe Provinces. I ſend your Lordſhip likewiſe a Peculiar printed ſort of *Gazette*, which comes out every Poſt, but only into few and particular Hands; but is the ſhrewdeſt Pen, and the beſt informed that ever I met with.

I am ever with the ſame Paſſion and Truth,

My LORD,

Yours, &c.

I am very well content his Majeſty may ſee this Letter, and judge upon it, how I am like to ſerve him in the Circumſtances I ſtand with the Secretary's Office.

To

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague, Aug. 5*th.* S. N. 1678.

SIR,

THE Penſioner having been with me, I have diſcourſed him upon the Points which you ſaid his Majeſty would have inſiſted upon; and he promiſes all his beſt Offices to bring them about; but ſaid, that his Majeſty would not be much concerned for the Amendments in theſe Points, if it were a Peace: which for his part he did not at all doubt of; and therefore deſired me to endeavour that nothing might be ſtirred before the Ratification, upon which he took the Peace to depend. I asked him, what made him think ſo? he replied, he would tell me in Confidence, that *Monſieur Sylvercroon* had been with him the Day before, to let him know that the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors had written to the *French* King, to deſire him not to hinder the Peace of *Chriſtendom* any longer, by inſiſting upon the Reſtitution of *Sweden* before the evacuation of the Towns; and that they expected an Anſwer from *France* upon it within two or three days. That hereupon, he, the

the Penſioner, concluded, *France* was reſolved to make the Peace, and evacuate the Towns; for he was very ſure *France* and *Sweden* underſtood one another; that the laſt made no Pace without the Direction and Conſent of the other. He ſaid, *Monſieur Sylvercroon* had ſpoken to him of it, as a Thing done and ſaid upon it, that he hoped now, the Peace was made, and that this State would not *acroche* it upon the Neutrality of *Cleves* and *Juliers*. That, he, the Penſioner, had told him, That was a Point the State had come to no Reſolution in, but only to order their Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*, to uſe all the moſt preſſing Offices they could with the *French* Ambaſſadors upon it; but that there were four of the Provinces reſolved not to have the Peace without it; and for his part, he would cry againſt it all he could. He deſired to know his Majeſty's Thoughts upon it, and that I would write and repreſent to his Majeſty the Importance of this Matter; and that in the mean time the Peace muſt take its Courſe without it.

About Nine a Clock this Morning arrived Mr. *Meredith* with new Inſtructions from his Majeſty, grounded upon an Intimation of *Monſieur du Cros*, as is there expreſs'd. Soon after *Monſieur du Cros* himſelf came to me, and told me the whole Story of his

Propoſition.

Propoſition. He enlarged upon his Majeſty's great Bounty to the Crown of *Sweden* by yielding to every one of the Points which he had propoſed to his Majeſty in his Memorial; and concluded with the Joy he ſhould have in ſeeing me ſo ſoon at *Nimeguen*, to ſecond the Aſſurances he was to give the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors upon this Occaſion.

I told him, that the Intentions of his Journey and mine, had already been prevented by the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors having of themſelves made that Pace towards the Peace, which he pretended to bring them to by his Majeſty's Conceſſions. Upon this *Monſieur du Cros* looked extremely ſurprized; but recovering himſelf, ſaid, He did believe the Letters he writ to the *French* Ambaſſadors the Poſt before he came away might have had that effect as to make them do the Thing before he came: But it was *Dans la veüe dequêque choſe qu'ils eſperoient d' Angleterre:* But, by comparing Times, I found that could not be.

He ſeemed very unreſolved upon all theſe Diſcourſes, whether he ſhould go to *Nimeguen*, or not; and asked me, what I intended to do? I anſwered, I ſhould not reſolve to ſtir without firſt giving an Account to Court of the Matter as it ſtood. So we parted, and he went about Five this Afternoon towards *Nimeguen*. I can-

I cannot but take notice that ſome of his Majeſty's Conceſſions in *du Cros*'s Memorial, are of as great importance as can be to the Crown of *England*: As the 3d and 4th, concerning the Liberty not only of levying our Mariners and Soldiers, but of buying our Ships and Men of War.

What Effect Monſieur *de Cros*'s Diſcourſes may have here, I cannot tell, as to the Peace; but as to his Majeſty's Meaſures and Intentions in it, they have, I am ſure, had a very ill one. For my part, I neither underſtand the Councils upon which they were grounded, nor will pretend to judge of the Event.

About Seven in the Afternoon I ſpoke with the Penſioner again, and communicated to him my new Inſtructions. He ſaid, there would be no difficulty as to the Neutrality of the Enemies of *Sweden*, nor as to thoſe of the Allies who accepted not the Peace with *France*. Then he ſaid the State had ſent to *Nimeguen* their Anſwer, by which they could not ſend to St. *Quintin*; and upon the Communication of it to the *French*, Monſieur *Colbert* had fallen into the greateſt *emportement* in the World and particularly againſt Monſieur *Beverning*.

Sir *L. Jenkins* writes me word, That the *French* take ſo little notice of his Majeſty's Mediation

Mediation there, that he has not heard one Syllable from them ſince they gave him their Conditions of the 14*th* of *April*. I ſend Mr. *Aglionby* away with this Diſpatch, conſidering the Importance of it: Beſides, that this Gentleman having attended the whole Motion of this Affair ever ſince my coming over, will be able to give his Majeſty a very Particular Account of all the ſteps that have been made in it, and of all that can be known from this Scene.

I am ever, &c.

From Penſioner *Fagell.*

A la Haye le 6me, Aouſt. 1678.

Monſieur,

AYant conſideré les ordres que Vôtre Excellence m' a communiquèe de la part du Roy Vôtre Maître & voyant que cet Etat n' acrochera pas la paix ſur la neutralité de Cleves, & que Vous n' avez pas aucun ordre là deſſus de la part du Roy vôtre Maître; que cet Etat ne ſoûtiendra pas la guerre avec vigueur, ſans que la France ſoit miſe dans ſon dernier

tort

tort par les refus d' evacuer les places, ce qu' arrivera quand la Suede y aura consenti : Que le Roy Vôtre Maître ne le fera pas aussi sans cela, comme il paroît par cette demarche, & par les difficultez que vôtre Cour a fait de ratifier le traité, sans des changemens qu' on ne peut pas faire icy : Que, du Cros a scû vôtre depêche, & que Sylvercroon l' a deja debité icy comme l' autre va faire á Nimegue, & avec de circonstances pût être plus mauvaises qu' il ne contient : Que la Suede semblant deja se deporter de leurs pretensions, & par lá, la France paroissant de vouloir faire la paix, Il sera bon que cet Etat aye encore cette Obligation á l' Angleterre, ce qui servira á continuer les liaisons entre nous apres la paix, qui est une chose de la derniere importance pour les interêts de sa Majesté, cet Etat, & le Prince. Je croy pour toutes ces raisons, qu' il est absolument necessaire, tant pour le bien commun de la Chrêtienté, que pour leurs interests, que Vôtre Excellence parte au plûtôt pour Nimegue, ensuite des ordres qu' Elle a receu.

Je suis,

De V. E.

Le tres humble & tres
Obeissant serviteur

Gasp. Fagell.

To

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Nimeguen, Aug. 9. S. N. 1678.

SIR,

IN humble obedience to his Majeſty's Expreſs Commands, I Sir *William Temple* came hither at Seven a Clock laſt Night: Immediately upon my Arrival *Monſieur de Balba* ſent to know whether he might make me a Viſit, which I conſented to, and he came accordingly.

His Diſcourſe conſiſted of his Hopes, that I brought a good Peace along with me; his Deſires to hear whether the Treaty at the *Hague* were ratified or no; and his Complaints that the *French*, notwithſtanding the *Swedes* having deſiſted, yet ſtill refuſed to ſign the Peace. That, for his part, he could not be ſorry for it; for though he ſhould have ſigned it if they had conſented, yet after having ſigned a Peace ſo deſtructive to *Chriſtendom*, he ſhould have retired himſelf from all Publick Buſineſs for the reſt of his Life.

Upon the enquiring the Occaſion of my coming, I told him, as I have done every Body elſe; that having been aſſured at the *Hague*, that the *Suedes* here having de

ſiſted from their Pretenſions of being reſtored before the Evacuation of the Places: And the *French* having always profeſſed that Difficulty to have been raiſed wholly upon their Occaſion. I made no queſtion but the Peace would be immediately ſigned; and thereupon came hither upon his Majeſty's Orders, that I ſhould be preſent at the Concluſion of it.

Upon the Marquis's going out; my Colleague Sir *Lyonel Jenkins* came in to me: and being ſurprized at the unexpectedneſs of my Arrival, and I asking him whether he knew nothing of it: He ſaid, Nothing, but from the Talk of a Confident Man lately arrived here; who had given out, he had brought the Peace in his Pocket; and Orders for Sir *William Temple* to come with him to *Nimeguen*.

Hereupon, I ſhewed my Colleague my Inſtructions, which you laſt ſent me, grounded upon Monſieur *du Cros*'s Propoſition: He told me the Thing was done before I came: That the *Suedes* had not only deſiſted from their Pretenſions; but that the *French* had owned it in their Memorial on *Sunday* laſt, and declared, that upon it; their Maſter deſiſted from detaining the Towns: But however, that he, my Colleague; did not find the Peace was much the nearer, ſince the *French* Ambaſſadors

adors did ſtill refuſe to ſign it; and perſiſted, that the *Dutch* ſhould ſend to treat and conclude it, either with the King their Maſter in Perſon; or with the Deputies at *Ghent*: Whereupon, conſulting with my Colleague, we concluded together; that we ſhould not ſay any thing to the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors of what your laſt Inſtructions imported, unleſs they ſpoke to me of it, and ſeemed to expect it from me; in regard that whatever his Majeſty intended ſhould be done by the *Suedes*, towards the Evacuation of the Towns, had been already fully done by them: And that no Declaration of his Majeſty's Inſtructions to me was meant, or could tend to this new Difficulty raiſed by *France*; about the *Dutch* deputing to the moſt *Chriſtian* King, or to his Deputies at *Ghent*.

The next Viſit I received was at Nine this morning from the *Daniſh* Ambaſſador, whoſe Diſcourſe was chiefly upon the occaſion of my Journey hither; upon the Ground it may give to the *Dutch*, of receiving otherwiſe this Propoſal from *France* than they might poſſibly have done if I had been at the *Hague*: upon the Liberty Monſieur *du Cros* had taken here of *proning* the Inſtructions he brought from his Majeſty, and the great Credit he had at our Court; which he, the Ambaſſador thought very

ſtrange, conſidering what he paſſed for at theirs, where he was ſufficiently known. And thereupon he gave me a Character of the Man, which I will not trouble you with.

After the *Dane*'s leaving me, the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors came in : Their Diſcourſe conſiſted in valuing the generous Pace they had made, of deſiſting from their Pretenſions, ſince thoſe alone ſeemed ſo much to retard the Peace.

They ſaid, that tho' they reckoned upon the good Offices of *Holland* after the Peace, as well as upon the Aſſiſtances of *France* towards their Reſtitution ; yet their chief Confidence was in the good Intentions of his Majeſty towards their Crown ; of which they had received ſo good Teſtimonies upon all Occaſions.

Hereupon they began to Diſcourſe of the laſt *French* Memorial ; and made their particular Reflections upon two Paſſages in it. The firſt, that *France* ſeemed to intend ; that they, the *Suedes*, ſhould owe their Reſtitution to the Meaſures that *France* ſhould take with *Holland* upon that Occaſion ; whereas their chief Hopes were from his Majeſty, and they had very little from *Holland* beſide their common Offices, after the Peace was made. The next was from the laſt Words of the Memorial ; by which it

appears

appears that *France* intended to treat and conclude the Peace with the Deputies of the States, in a Place where there was like to be no Miniſter from *Sueden*; which they ſay, they did not very well underſtand, nor thought they had Reaſon to be ſatisfyed with what the *French* Ambaſſadors told them upon it; that the King their Maſter's Intention was, the Peace ſhould be ſigned here at *Nimeguen*; though it were concluded at St. *Quintin*.

All that I anſwered to theſe Diſcourſes was, my Compliments upon the Declaration they had made, of deſiſting from their Pretentions rather than hindring the Peace of *Chriſtendom*; and the aſſurances that I had Orders to give them, of his Majeſty's good Intentions towards their Crown. And here our Diſcourſe was like to end; when I reſolved to make ſome mention of Monſieur *du Cros*, to find out what they would ſay upon it; and what the true Ground had been of his Journey and mine hither.

I told them, that I was in hopes to have found the Peace ready to be ſigned here when I came. For, beſides the aſſurances the Penſioner had given me and Monſieur *Sylvercroon* at the *Hague*; of their Excellencies having deſiſted from their Pretentions which had difficulted the Peace. I heard, that Monſieur *du Cros* had ſaid upon the

way hither; that he carryed the Peace in his Pocket, and that he brought expreſs Orders to them, the *Suedes* Ambaſſadors, which they had not before.

Monſieur *Oxenſtern* ſaid very gravely to this; *Aſſeurement nous n'avons pas agi par des ordres qui nous ont été portés par Mr. du Cros*: But Monſieur *Olivecrants* ſmiling ſaid, *Monſieur; pour ce qui eſt de la vanité, il faut pardonner á Monſieur du Cros, puiſque vous ſcaves qu'il eſt gar çon.* I told them hereupon, that Monſieur *du Cros* had told both me and Monſieur *Sylvercroon*, that the Declaration made by the *Suediſh* Ambaſſadors here, had been grounded upon the Aſſurances that his Majeſty had given particularly to Monſieur *du Cros*, in *England*. *Monſieur Olivecrants* replyed a little warmly. *Monſieur, vous me pardonneres, cela a eté fondè ſur les aſſurances que le Roy m' a donnè devant que de partir de Londres.*

By theſe Lights I ſuppoſe. you will be able to unriddle better than I can do here; what hath been the true Bottom of all this Intrigue.

After the *Suedes* left me, the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors came in; and preſently after them, as we had concerted together, came I Sir *L. Jenkins*. They fell preſently into Diſcourſe of the laſt *French* Memorial; in which they ſaid, they could find little more

than

than in the former, but that it was a Tranſpoſition of Words. For, whereas they had ſaid before, they would not evacuate the Towns without Reſtitution to *Sueden*: They now ſay, they will evacuate the Towns; but they will firſt treat and agree with the *Dutch* about the Satisfaction of *Sueden*.

They ſaid the firſt Period was clear, and that upon it they offered to ſign the Peace: But the *French* refuſed, ſaying; that though their Memorial conſiſted of three Periods, yet they were to be taken, *pour une choſe toute d' une ſuite*.

The next Remark they made, was upon the Words *toutes les places*, in the firſt Period. Which Word *toutes*, they found upon ſearch never to have been in any of their Memorials or Letters before. And they obſerved, the Meaning of it might be, that though they deſiſted from the Deſign of retaining *all* the Places, yet they did not from that of retaining *ſome* of them: And the Words if you pleaſe to obſerve them, ſeem to bear it.

Monſieur Beverning ſaid farther, that when he offered to Sign the Peace, and ſaid, that they ſhould not be many days longer at liberty, *à cauſe de leurs engagements*: The *French* replyed: *Vous vous fies à vos engagemens, Meſſieurs, et le Roy à deux cent mille*

hommes qu' il a bien paye. They told them farther, that his Majeſty hath ſuch Treaties with *France*, that would keep him from performing *ce que Monſieur Temple a ſtipulè à la Haye.* Whereto *Monſieur Colbert* added; *Et pourquoy Monſieur Temple ne vient il pas? il a les ordres du Roy ſon Maître de revenir icy, auſſi ne fait il à la Haye que du mal.*

After they concluded that the Deſign of *France* was to draw this Buſineſs into a particular Negotiation, between them and the States; without either the *Suede* of the one Side, or their Allies of the other; and without *England* too; and by that means to hinder them from the aſſiſtance either of their Allies or of Us. That by theſe Memorials about Deputations to *France*, and by their Artifices in ſcattering Copies of them as ſoon as they were delivered, they hoped to prevent the Meaſures between Us and *Holland*; and to draw out time while they purſued the Siege of *Mons*, and while *England* ſhould grow weary of keeping up their Forces; which they knew a Parliament would not be willing to pay for a Peace, though they would for a War. Mr. *Haren* added, *il n' y a perſonne ſi Aveugle qui ne voit tous ces artifices.* They both wiſhed very much that I Sir *William Temple* were now at the *Hague*, becauſe they doubted what Effect this Memorial of

France

France might have upon them there; when they ſhould ſee in the firſt Period of it, a Declaration of the *French* to evacuate the Towns, but not conſider that which follows.

The firſt Viſit I Sir *William Temple* received this afternoon, was from Count *Kinski*; whoſe chief Diſcourſe was in extolling the Force of *England*; which had appeared ſo much in his Majeſty's late arming ſo powerfully in ſo ſhort a time; ſaying, that if the King pleaſed, he was Arbiter of the World; and might be ſo of this Peace here, if he thought fit.

That for their part, (meaning the *Imperial* Ambaſſadors) in it; all that he would ſay, was; that they were ſent hither, *pour traitter, et non pas pour recevoir des loix*; but that the *French* underſtood it otherwiſe: And that nothing had paſſed between them, ſince the *French* publiſhed the Conditions upon which they would make the Peace, in the beginning of *April* laſt; ſince which time they had often offered to treat upon them, but the *French* excuſed themſelves; and for their parts, they were reſolved not to receive thoſe Conditions without treating upon them.

Next to Count *Kinski* came to me the *Brandenburgh* Ambaſſadors, whoſe Diſcourſes were either Compliment, or Politick

tick upon the Affairs of *Holland*: How near the Prince was being abſolutely loſt there about three Months ago; and how much he was recovered ſince this laſt Incident from *France*, about the evacuating of the Towns.

The next Hours of five, ſix, and ſeven, this afternoon, were given to the three *French* Ambaſſadors, who had been the laſt to demand it of me; having been yeſterday out of Town at my Arrival. All paſſed with a great Compliment and Kindneſs; beſides which, *Monſieur d' Eſtrades* endeavoured to ſhew, that all the Sincerity in the World had been of his Maſter's Side, but that all had been Artificial on the part of the States, but eſpecially on *Monſieur Beverning*'s; who he ſaid, was, *trop habile homme*, and always found ſome ſpecious thing or other to hinder the Peace; by which the *French* found that the States abſolutely had no mind to it, how much ſoever his Maſter deſires it.

Monſieur Colbert's whole Diſcourſe was, how the Incident touching the Towns proceeded wholly from *Monſieur Oxenſtern*; How the moſt *Chriſtian* King could not in Honour refuſe it to an Ally; though he, (*Monſieur Colbert*) thought it much againſt his Maſter's Intereſt, and more againſt that of *Sueden*: That his Maſter had deſiſted imme-

immediately upon the *Suedes* deſiſting by their Declaration; which was made to them here, *July 26th*, S. N.

This made me reflect upon what *Monſieur du Cros* would have Sold ſo dear to his Majeſty, after that the *Suediſh* Ambaſſadors had given the Point here: And, as *Monſieur Oliveerants* ſaid, upon the Aſſurances his Majeſty had given him before he came laſt from *London*: But as others interpret it here, from the Fears, that in caſe the War went on this Summer, the *Dutch* would lend their Fleet to the Allies; to beat the *Suedes* clearly out of *Pomerania*.

I remember nothing in *Monſieur d' Avaux*'s Viſit, beſide the ordinary things that paſſed in thoſe of his Colleagues.

About eight a Clock, the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors came to us both a ſecond time; and ſaid, they had Orders from their Maſters to communicate to us the Anſwer they had newly received from them, to the *French* Memorial of *Sunday* laſt: Which was in ſhort; That they were ready to ſign the Peace, and ſhould be ſo till to morrow was paſt: After which they ſhould be at liberty no longer, in regard of their Engagements with his Majeſty: But, that if they, (the *French* Ambaſſadors) would Sign the Peace, their Maſters the States, after it was Signed, (to ſhew their Reſpects

to

to the Moſt *Chriſtian* King,) would ſend their Ambaſſadors not only to St. *Quintin*, but to *Paris*.

The Time being thus ſhort, and expiring to morrow at twelve at Night; they told us, they would go ſtrait from us to acquaint the *French* Ambaſſadors by word of mouth with this Anſwer of the States, intending to give it them to morrow more extenſively in Writing.

We are always,

SIR,

Your moſt Faithful

Humble Servants.

W. Temple.
L. Jenkins.

To

To Mr. Secretary *Williamſon.*

Hague, Auguſt 16th. S. N. 1678.

SIR,

ON *Saturday* laſt in the Evening, I received yours of the 30*th* paſt at *Nimeguen*, with his Majeſty's Orders to exchange the Ratifications of the late Treaty here; upon which you are pleaſed to ſay, his Majeſty put ſo much Weight. I found upon computation, that yeſterday being *Monday*, was the laſt Day allowed for the exchange of the ſaid Ratifications; and reſolved to part by three a Clock next morning, that I might not fail of arriving here in time; which I did about ſeven a Clock yeſterday morning, after having been all Night upon the Way. I immediately ſpoke with the Penſioner, and acquainted him with my Orders to exchange the Ratifications, and of what you command me to let him know here, of his Majeſty's Intention upon it; which was, that I ſhould ſtill endeavour to procure an Amendment of thoſe Points in the Treaty, againſt which his Majeſty has made exception; though he had not thought fit to delay

delay the Ratification upon it, both for the infinite Conſequence of the Buſineſs, and his great Zeal to ſupport the Intereſts in queſtion; upon which grounds he had choſen rather to rely upon the States for obtaining thoſe Points after the Ratification, than to delay it upon them.

The Penſioner ſeemed extreamly pleaſed that the Ratifications are come, and that I had order to exchange them; which he deſired might be done in form at ten a Clock. As to the Points ſtill inſiſted on; he ſaid, he would not fail of acquainting the States with them at ſuch times, and in ſuch manner as he thought would conduce moſt to the Succeſs of them, and thereby to his Majeſty's Satisfaction; though he conceived, ſince a Peace was like to follow, his Majeſty would find no neceſſity of inſiſting upon them for the preſent, and his Majeſty's Ratification would have much more Force and Credit here; if it came barely to the States without thoſe Circumſtances, after the Fears they had been in of his Majeſty's not Ratifying the Treaty.

After this, he fell immediately to ſpeak of the Peace that had been lately ſigned at *Nimeguen*; and with great Trouble in his Face, and I believe at Heart; when I ſaid, *Il faut avouër qu' elle eſt belle, principalement ayant eté ſignee ſans l' Eſpagne.* He replyed,

ed, it was true: But that this laſt would never have been done without *Monſieur du Cros*'s Journey and his *debiting* both here and at *Nimeguen*; that his Majeſty was reſolved not to come to a Rupture with *France*, but had taken his Meaſures abſolutely with them upon the Peace, and that Orders were ſent over to my Lord *Sunderland* to that purpoſe. I told him, I diſcovered by my going to *Nimeguen*; that all the Buſiueſs of Mr. *du Cros* had been only an Intrigue of his own: And, I believe, a Surprize upon his Majeſty. That I had thereupon never ſaid one word to the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors there, of his Majeſty's warranting the Neutrality of *Spain*, or any thing elſe contained in the Diſpatches received from *England* with Mr. *du Cros*; but had made that Advantage of my Journey, as in great meaſure to take away the ill Impreſſions which had been given them of his Majeſty's Conduct by *du Cros*'s Diſcourſes, and the *French* Ambaſſadors upon them. He ſeemed to be extream glad of both theſe Points; and ſaid, he would immediately give the Prince notice of them. That *Monſieur du Cros*'s Journey was a thing done, and ſo without Remedy; and therefore they muſt make the beſt of what was paſt, and provide as well as they could againſt what was coming upon them; in which

which they ſhould have infinite need of his Majeſty's Reſolution and Conſtancy *pour ſupporter la foibleſſe de quelques gens de cét Etat qui ne tendoient qu'a la ruine du pais auſſi bien que du Prince.* That for his part, he ſaw very well the Artifices of *France* in all that had paſſed at *Nimeguen.* That, they knew, the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors had orders to Sign the Peace in caſe the Evacuation of the Places were yielded before the 11*th* of this Month according to our late Treaty, but that they could not Sign after that Day was expired. That they were reſolved to prevent the force of this Conjunction between his Majeſty and this State, by Signing the Peace that Night upon yielding to evacuate the Places, but that they had not diſcovered this Intention till ten a Clock that morning, in a Conference which laſted till three in the afternoon; after which they knew, there would neither be time for the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors to adjuſt their Treaty that Night, nor for the *Dutch* to ſend for Orders to the States, whether to Sign without the *Spaniards* or no: That the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors had *extremement precipité l' Affaire*; and that he knew very well, the *French* were perſuaded by ſome of their Correſpondents here, that the States having once Signed, though *Spain* ſhould not agree, would yet

be

be concluded by it: And that the *French* Ambaſſadors had thereupon raiſed new Points in their Treaty with *Spain*, which had never been mentioned in the *French* Propoſitions at *Nimeguen*. That they would indeed have a very fine Game to play, if in only giving up *Maeſtricht* to the *Dutch*, they might retain the other Places in *Flanders*; and have the Liberty thereby of invading *Cleves* and *Juliers*, while this State ſhould have their Hands tyed up: But that they would be deceived in all this meaſure. That the States would never Ratify the Treaty, unleſs that of *Spain* were firſt concluded; and the Places in *Flanders* as well as *Maeſtricht* ſhould thereupon be actually evacuated. That, till *Spain* had Signed, they would neither ſend their Deputies to *France* (though they might poſſibly name them) nor ſo much as conſent to the ceaſing of Hoſtility. That, God be thanked, there was an Expreſſion in the late Treaty, by which his Majeſty and the States were engaged one to another; not only in caſe *France* ſhould refuſe to promiſe the Evacuation of the Places, but alſo in caſe they ſhould delay to do it, either upon the Account of the Satisfaction of *Sueden*, or any other cauſe; or in caſe after they had agreed to it, they ſhould *detrectare*. That the Ratifications being once

exchanged; he did not doubt, his Majesty would be firm to them in all these Points, as they should be both to him and to themselves.

After this, he told me, he should see me again, when the Commissioners came to exchange the Ratifications, which they accordingly did between Ten and Eleven, and the Exchange was made in form between us. *Monsieur Van Lewen* took occasion to say upon it; that, as nothing but our signing the Treaty could have made the *French* yield to the Point of evacuating the Places; so, nothing but our Ratification could keep them up to it. That they had discovered their Artifices more than ever, by the long *chicane* they had made with the *Dutch* Ambassadors, about retaining *Maestricht*, *Charleroy*, or *Ghent*, even the very Day they signed the Treaty: By which they shewed plainly, that nothing had brought them to it, but the fear of a firm Conjunction between *England* and *Holland*; and that he still feared what might be the Consequence of the Treaty signed without the *Spaniards*.

I told the Commissioners, his Majesty had ever reckoned upon *Spains* concluding at the same time with them, and upon evacuation of the *Spanish* Places, as the very Fundamental Point of the States agreeing to the *French* Conditions. That I found before

fore I came from *Nimeguen*, that the Difficulties were like to be great between *France* and *Spain*; and that the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors thereupon had a mind to put that Buſineſs upon us the King's Ambaſſadors there; but that we had excuſed our ſelves from it, and told them, we had always looked upon it as a part of the States Agreement with *France*, and with which they ought to charge themſelves as the moſt eſſential part of their own Treaty. I asked the Commiſſioners whether they were not of this Mind? the Penſioner ſaid, they were; and that the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors ſhould be charged with it, as a Point without which the Peace could not be ratified. *Monſieur Van Lewen* ſeconded them, and ſaid, it was the foundation of all the reſt; and that he did believe, there was not one Man in the States would conſent to the Ratification without it.

I remember nothing elſe that paſſed upon this Occaſion: And ſhall upon the whole in ſhort give you my own Opinion of the preſent Diſpoſitions here in this great Conjuncture. There is a Party here, that would certainly drive this State into ſuch Meaſures with *France*, as might bring the Provinces not only into a Dependence, but even under the ſubjection of *France*. And this Party conſiſts chiefly of Rich Men of the old *Loveſtein* Faction, in Five of Six of the

great trading Towns of this Province. They are induced to it by the Hatred and Fear of the Houſe of *Orange*; and by the Belief, that if they live under the Protection of *France*, the Liberty and Trade of the Country ſhall be ſtill preſerved, and the Hands of the Government only changed from the Prince of *Orange*'s Friends to thoſe of this Party. The *French* have had all along but eſpecially for theſe ſeven or eight Months paſt, a cloſe Intelligence with the beſt Heads of this Party, and by them infuſed it into many well-meaning Men; that nothing but the Protection of *France* can preſerve theſe Countries in conſtant Peace, and thereby in Trade and Riches. That *France* can never have any Deſign upon their Liberties, becauſe it would be againſt their own Intereſt; in regard they could make better uſe of this State by their continuing to be great and rich, than if they ſhould be weak and poor; which would follow the ſuppreſſion of their Liberties; With many other plauſible Things of this nature, reflecting upon the great Danger here, to be from the Prince of *Orange* in Conjunction with *England*.

On the other ſide, five of the Provinces here, and about Eleven or Twelve of Eighteen of the Towns in this Province, are generally in the Opinions and Intereſts of the Prince

Prince of *Orange*; and whenever his Majesty falleth in heartily to back them by his Alliances, and any Artificial Dealing in the *French* Negotiations come to be discover'd, they grow to be so much Masters of all Resolutions here, that all the well-meaning Men, even in the great Trading Towns, fall in with them; and those which are absolutely in the *French* Interest, dare not so much as speak in their Assemblies. But whenever it happens that any Paces of his Majesty give them a Suspicion of his Uncertainty in the Measures with them, the other Party then immediately gets ground, and the generality in the great Towns begin to conclude, that they had better accept any Terms of Peace from *France*, than rely upon a Support from *England* which they cannot be sure of.

All seem at present absolutely resolved not to ratifie the Peace with *France*, unless *Spain* likewise be concluded by it, and the Towns evacuated: But yet what this it self may come to, I cannot tell, in case his Majesty should give them occasion of doubting his Resolutions to support them in it. Which is all I shall trouble you with upon this Subject, or any other at this time, besides the Assurances of my being always,

SIR,

Your, &c.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Aug. 16th. S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

ON *Saturday* laſt in the Evening I received at *Nimeguen* by Expreſs, your Lordſhip's, in the New Secretary's Hand, with one from Secretary *Williamſon*, giving me order to exchange the Ratifications with this State, which were ſent over laſt Poſt; and upon the Exchange whereof, Mr. Secretary tells me his Majeſty put ſo much Weight. If it were ſo, ſure he muſt have forgot that I was ordered the Poſt before to go away to *Nimeguen*, and that it is twenty ſix Leagues between this Place and that; ſo that if by contrary Winds, or any other Accident, the Expreſs had been a Day longer coming to me; or if after receiving it, I had not travelled all Night as well as Day, I could not have been here time enough to have ratified it; the Term fixt for it by the Treaty expiring yeſterday; and that perhaps the ſtate of *Chriſtendom* may in great meaſure depend upon this Ratification; for tho' the Peace between *France* and this State be ſigned, yet it muſt be the force of this

Ratification

Ratification that must prevail with *France* to sign the Treaty with *Spain* too; and thereupon to evacuate really the Towns; and it must be the same Force that must keep this State from ratifying their Peace with *France*, unless *Spain* be likewise included, and the Towns really evacuated.

For my own part, I was never so amazed as to receive this Ratification of the Treaty, and Orders to exchange it. For, upon Mr. *de Cros*'s Journey, and all he said at the *Hague* and *Nimeguen* upon it; as if it were on purpose to spread it both here and there; I did believe the King had taken his absolute Measures with *Franee*; that he was resolved not to ratify the Treaty here; and sent me away to *Nimeguen*, only to have me gone from hence, for the Reasons *Monsieur Colbert* gave for my Orders to go; *A cause que je ne faisois que du mal icy*. Besides, Mr. *de Cros* told them and others here, that all the Measures concerning the Peace were agreed by his Majesty, your Lordship, *Monsieur Barillon*, and him. That you were to enter into Alliance presently with *France* and *Sweden*; That Orders were gone to my Lord *Sunderland* to that purpose, and that his Lordship would make them publick here the next Post. How all this was to agree with my Treaty here, and Powers to negotiate with the Confederates, made, I con-

feſs, my Head turn round, and ſeemed to hang together like Ropes of Sand. In the mean time, I had found out by the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*, that the whole Buſineſs of *de Cros* was a Myſtery to them, that they knew nothing in the World of it till he came to *Nimeguen*; only the Poſt before he had writ them word he was coming: That they had given the *French* Ambaſſadors their Declaration of deſiſting from their Pretenſions, the *26th* of laſt Month, S. *N.* and that the very Hour Mr. *de Cros* arrived, and was with them, the *French* Ambaſſadors came in, to let them, the *Swedes*, know they had orders to deſiſt likewiſe from their Pretenſions of detaining the Towns.

Both the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors told me, that when they delivered this Meſſage to *de Cros*, who was all the while in the Houſe, he was, *Si étonné qu' il étoit prêt de tomber de ſon haut*; and yet that he had the Impudence to write to his Maſter the Duke of *Holſtein*, that he had made the Peace. This they told me both together; and next day, *Monſieur Olivecrants* alone told me, *de Cros* had ſo much Addreſs as to get them both to ſign a Letter to his Majeſty, of his own drawing up, which ſeemed to give him (*de Cros*) ſome ſhare in the Buſineſs; and that he (*Monſieur Olivecrants*) was extreamly

aſhamed

aſhamed of it, becauſe the contrary would appear by the Date of their Declaration to *France*; but that this whole Intrigue of *de Cros* was an arrant Comedy. For my own part, I wiſh it were ſo, but the Effects are more than ridiculous, and I doubt have ſhaken his Majeſty's Credit more than was to be wiſhed at this time. And for my part, I have, upon what the *Swedes* told me, very plainly ſaid to the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors and others, that it was a downright *fourberie* of *de Cros*, and that I had no other Buſineſs at *Nimeguen* but to obſerve the Motions of the Peace at the Critical Term. In ſhort, 'tis ſigned; and I have writ to Mr. *Secretary*, with what Diſpoſitions on the *French*, and what on this ſide, and what all may come to upon it I know not, but am ſure it will extremely depend upon his Majeſty. But, what the Diſpoſitions will be there, I can never pretend more to tell, ſince you could not ſo much as keep your Countenance three Weeks together, and have now ratified a Treaty, which Mr. Secretary found fault with every Line of; and ſince you could ſuffer ſuch a Man as *de Cros*; of whom the Penſioner ſaid at my but naming of him, *C' eſt un fourbe des fourbes*, to give ſo unhappy a *branle* to the Affairs of the World. But, after all I muſt beg your Lordſhip to let me know, when you did re-

ſolve

ſolve to ſend him and thoſe Inſtructions, why not to Sir *L. Jenkins* that was upon the Place, but to me that was engaged here in an Affair of another nature. Well, I can ſay no more, but that it has ſo broke my Head, that I think it will not be right again: And I muſt beg of your Lordſhip, that you will pleaſe to let his Majeſty know that I grow old and infirm, and am not fit for theſe ſudden Commands: That if he thinks I can be of uſe to him till the end of this Conjuncture, I am content to ſtay that Period; but, for returning to *Nimeguen*, I ſhall not be able to do it; nor do I think there can be need of more than one; if there be, Mr. *Hyde* is in Commiſſion: But let who will be there inſtructed as I find Sir *Lyonel Jenkins* is, there had as good be none at all: Whatever becomes of my Health, or Heart, or Honour, your Lordſhip will ever be aſſured of my being,

My LORD,

Your, &c.

Poſt-

Poſtſcript.

My LORD,

SInce the writing of this I have received Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*'s of the 2*d* Inſtant, and a long one from Mr. *Aglionby* of the ſame Date, with an Account of all his Majeſty's, the Duke's, and your Lordſhip's Diſcourſes to him upon the preſent Conjuncture: By which I find you will have reaſon to think of the Man and his late Intrigue, as I have done ever ſince I ſpoke with the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors; but what you will think after he has been with you, I know not, conſidering his Addreſs; one part whereof has been, to make the *Leyden French Gazette* publiſh yeſterday; That upon *Monſieur de Cros*'s Arrival at *Nimeguen* the Peace was immediately ſigned; ſo that it muſt have been done upon ſomething he brought with him from *England*. I cannot but add one Thing the Penſioner told me ſince my Return; which was, that among many other things *de Cros* had ſpread both here and at *Nimeguen*, of which you have Account enough already; he told the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors as well as the *French*, that the King was abſolutely for a

Peace,

Peace, and would not come into the War; but that the Duke was wholly for the War, and with Intention by it to bring the Prince to be Sovereign of this Country; being wholly in that Intereſt ſince the Marriage of his Highneſs.

Upon the whole you will beſt be able to judge there, from what Springs this whole Thing has moved, finding how early *Sweden* has made their Declaration of deſiſting, which was the 16*th* of *July* O.S. How *France* had reſolved to ſign the Peace with the *Dutch* upon the Evacuation of the Places, if they could not prevail for the Deputation to St. *Quintin*; and how all this has paſs'd, it ſeems, without any Communication with his Majeſty: For, in the Letters of the 2*d* Inſtant, you knew nothing of any ſuch Reſolution in *France*, for ought I ſee; and the *French* Ambaſſadors received their Orders to ſign upon *Monday* the 29*th* of *July*, O. S. tho' they kept them private till *Wedneſday*, which was the laſt Day the *Dutch* were at liberty; and thereby put them upon doing it ſo precipitately, that they might neither be able to take *Spain* along with them, nor to conſult with the States whether to ſign or no.

This is enough upon ſo unpleaſant a Subject. Now, for my going to *Nimeguen*, after I had firſt reſolved to ſtay, when I received

ceived my Inſtructions; I will tell your Lordſhip juſt upon what Point that Reſolution turned. The day after I diſpatch'd my Secretary with my firſt Reſolution; Mr. *Meredith* told me, the King had been extreme earneſt upon my going to *Nimeguen*, without any more Circumſtance than bare Communication to the States. *Monſieur Sylvercroon* came and told me, the *Swedes* had not abſolutely deſiſted from their Pretenſions, tho' they had declared they would; and the Penſioner writ me this Letter all in his own Hand, whereof I ſend you the Copy, by which he made my going abſolutely neceſſary for his Majeſty's Intereſt, and that of the Prince, as well as all other Conſiderations; ſince *de Cros* had made the Subject of it ſo publick, that ſeveral of the States of *Holland* had told the the Penſioner of it the day after *de Cros* had paſſed by this Place. All that I can ſay farther to your Lordſhip is, that if the King be really upon no better Terms with *France*, than he ſeems to be by all the laſt Diſpatches, and that they play their Game here whenever they can, and with us only when they cannot compaſs their Ends here: And if his Majeſty will, on the other ſide, endeavour to hinder that Game, and keep the Dependance of this State upon the Crown of *England*, he muſt, I doubt, come to theſe Two Reſolutions.

First,

Firſt, to aſſure the Prince of *Orange* that he will take no farther Meaſures either upon the Peace or War, till he has firſt concerted them with him: And next, to come to a reſolution to join abſolutely with this State, in any Meaſures they ſhall think neceſſary for their ſafety upon the Neutrality of *Cleves* and *Juliers*; without which, the Prince and Penſioner think the State loſt: But they know not whether they will come up to it themſelves, till they find whether they ſhall be backed by his Majeſty; But in that caſe they are confident the States will be poſitive either before the Peace or after.

I humbly beg your Lordſhip's Pardon for this long and haſty Scribble, which I am aſhamed of, and yet now it is done, it will be neceſſary to ſhew it his Majeſty, being all the Lights I can give from hence, beſides what I have given to Mr. Secretary, and all the Account I can give of my own Conduct.

I am, &c.

YOur Lordſhip will underſtand by my Diſpatch to Mr. Secretary, that I having ſaid not a Word to the *Swedes* at *Nimeguen*, but only general Profeſſions of his Majeſty's Kindneſs to that Crown; the

King

King is at liberty wholly on that ſide, unleſs Mr. *de Croſs* had Power to bind him.

To Sir. *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague, Aug. 19th. S. N. 1678.

SIR,

BY Sir *L. Jenkin's* Expreſs I gave you yeſterday the Trouble of one of mine, with a Copy of the Treaty ſigned the 10*th*, between the *French* and *Dutch* Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*. I am apt to believe, that what was ſigned at firſt was rather a *brouillon* than any fair and formal Draught; both the *French* and *Monſieur Van Beverning* having run the Affair out of all Forms, to prevent the Fatal Minute, as they thought it, of Twelve a Clock that Night; after which the *Dutch* had declared they could not ſign; And *Monſieur Beverning* ſuffers, as I find, in every bodies Opinion here; having, as they aſſure me, never had any Orders to ſign, but only to paſs an Act upon the *French* conſenting to evacuate the Places, that the States would thereupon ſign the Peace ſo ſoon as the Treaty with *Spain* ſhould be a-

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greed. Let the Spring have been where it will, the Precipitation of the Affair appears in many Points that reflect much upon *Monsieur Beverning*'s Conduct, who confesses, they had not time to read it over. For, besides a Contradiction in two Articles, which give one Six Months, and another nine Months time for the same thing, there were three essential Faults. The First, Not drawing so much as an Act from the *French* Ambassadors for the evacuation of the *Spanish* Towns, tho' the *Spanish* Ambassadors had given them one before the signing, whereby they consented to the Terms offered them by the *French* Proposition. The next was, (which I hear in private) that whereas it was agreed upon between them, that the Differences between the States and *Sweden* should be endeavoured to be adjusted in three Months time, and that in the mean while there should be a Neutrality: When the Article was drawn up, the Term of three Months was omitted, so that the Article runs in general. The third concerns his Majesty more particularly, and his defensive Alliance with this State: For, in the 13*th* Article of the Treaty of Peace, where the States promise a Neutrality, and not directly, nor indirectly to assist the Enemies of *France*, it runs generally; which destroys the Force of any defensive League they have

have made. But when I ſpoke to the Penſioner and *Monſieur Van Lewen* about it, they both told me that the States had immediately taken notice of it as ſoon as the Tranſcript of the Articles came to them, and had then ſent to *Monſieur Beverning* to reproach him upon it, with order to have it immediately redreſſed: Without which they ordered him to declare to the *French* Ambaſſadors, that it ſhould not be ratified; and it is to be mended by the Addition of theſe Words, after, *les en emis de France & des Alliés Durant le cours de cette guerre, & à l'egard de ceux qui y ſont maintenant engagés.* They interpret the dreſſing of this Article in *French*, to have been induſtrious on their part, as well as negligent on the *Dutch* Side.

To morrow *Monſieur Beverning* will make his Report to the States, how this whole Buſineſs has paſſed, and particularly of the State wherein I left the Differences between the *French* and the *Spaniards*. Accordingly, tho' I have no Letters from you this Poſt, yet having ſeen one from *Monſieur Van Beuninghen*, which confirms me in the Opinion I was, that his Majeſty would deſire the *Spaniards* might come to ſign too; without which the Towns in *Flanders* would not be evacuated; I have ſpoken as large with

Monſieur de Lyra upon this Point, who I take to be the Spring of the *Spaniards* Motions in all theſe Parts.

I find his Reſolutions are to try if he can make the States diſown their Ambaſſadors: But in caſe he cannot obtain that, and be preſſed to diſpatch the Treaty now on foot, he will give into it even with the Point of Neutrality; laying this for his Maxim, to hold this State up to the beſt Terms he can for his Maſter, but however not to break with them; and to purſue the cloſeſt Meaſures he can with them after the Peace, and by their Means endeavour the ſame with his Majeſty, upon the belief that all three are equally concerned in preſervation of whatever is left in *Flanders*.

While I was in this Diſpatch, the Penſioner and *Monſieur Van Lewen* came to me from the States to let me know, that having received Letters from *Monſieur Van Beuninghen*, by which they found that *Monſieur du Cros* had informed his Majeſty, that the States had made Paces in this Treaty, diſagreeing with the Meaſures taken between his Majeſty and them, and of private Concert between them and *France*; particularly that they deſiſted from preſſing the Neutrality of *Cleves* and *Juliers*, and had granted the *French* a Paſſage at *Viſet* for invading thoſe Countries: The States had ordered

ordered them both to write to *Monſieur Van Beuninghen*, and to deſire me to aſſure his Majeſty, that it was all a falſe Information. And whereas they found endeavours had been uſed thereupon, to poſſeſs his Majeſty, that the Peace being made, there would be no farther uſe of his Forces in *Flanders*; they deſired not only the Continuation of thoſe that were there, but likewiſe that he would be pleaſed to ſend over more, ſince the Peace was yet upon very tickliſh Terms.

They ſaid hereupon, that they every day diſcovered ſome new Artifices in the dealings of *France*; for now they propoſed two Months to be the Term of the Ratification between them and the *Spaniards*, tho *Spain* deſired but a Month; which was done out of deſign to retard the Evacuation of the Places, till his Majeſty and the States ſhould retire their Forces out of *Flanders*. But that they were confident the States would not ratifie their Treaty, till *Spain* ſhould ratifie theirs, and the Evacuation of the Places immediately follow.

The Penſioner ſtaying ſome time with me alone, told me, both the States of *Holland*, and States General had approved the Prince's late Action near *Mons*, and ſent him thanks for it, as well as for his Conduct the next day, in acquainting *Monſieur*

de Luxemburg with the Peace, and agreeing a Ceſſation of Arms for two days.

I took notice of the 30*th* Article of the Treaty of Commerce, about the Liberty of building Ships, as one that had been introduced in the time of their beſt Intelligence, upon the Treaty of 1662; and which I thought too much for a bare Treaty of Peace and Amity. But he ſaid, this Article was in their Treaties of Commerce with *Sweden* and *Denmark*, as well as *France*: That *France* had made one Tryal of it by building four or five Ships here; but had been ſo ſerved in it, that they never returned any more, and he did believe never would, or if they did, ſhould fare no better.

That they, the States, were ready to come to any new Treaty of the ſtricteſt Alliance that his Majeſty ſhould think fit after the Peace, ſince nothing but a firm Conjunction between them could ſtop the Career of *France*. He ſaid, that their Ambaſſadors had ſtrict Orders to inſiſt upon the Neutrality of *Cleves* and *Juliers*, even after the Peace; but it having been omitted in the firſt haſty Acceptation of the Peace, ſome Towns would not be brought to *accroche* it abſolutely upon That. What they might do when it came nearer to them he could not tell; but was apt to believe, that the *Spaniards* once agreeing, it might run

to

to a General Peace, and that the Affairs of the *North* it ſelf would not hinder it,

I am,

Your, &c.

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague, Aug. 23*d* S. N. 1678.

SIR,

ON *Saturday* laſt *Monſieur Beverning* made his Report to the States, and in particular, of the Difficulties remaining between the *French* and *Spaniards*; which conſiſted chiefly in the *French* Demands of the County of *Beaumont*, of *Bovines*, of Security for the Ceſſion of *Dinant*, and of an Article of Neutrality from the *Spaniards*. The Report was received ſo coldly, and followed with ſuch Imputations of ill Conduct, upon thoſe Points I mentioned in my Laſt, eſpecially the Omiſſion in the 13*th* Article, and not procuring an Act from the *French* Ambaſſadors for the Evacuation of the Places; that *Monſieur Beverning* when he came

out of the Aſſembly, ſwore to his Friends, that he would give up his Commiſſion, and that nothing ſhould engage him to return to *Nimeguen* any more; laying the Fault of all Omiſſions upon his Precipitation; and that upon the Advices and Orders from hence, which he had followed to the beſt of his Underſtanding. He went immediately to his Houſe in the Country, where he continues ever ſince; tho' ſome of the States have engaged ſeveral of his beſt Friends to go down and endeavour to reclaim him.

Yeſterday about Noon the Prince arriv'd at *Hounſlerdyke*, after having agreed with the Duke of *Luxemburg* about a Ceſſation of Hoſtility till the Ratification of the Treaty, and about withdrawing the Forces on each Side; and thereby left *Mons* open. I attended his Highneſs in the Afternoon, and found him much unſatisfied about the Signing of the Peace without *Spain*; which he ſaid abſolutely, the Ambaſſadors had no farther Orders for, than only to threaten the *Spaniards*, that in caſe they would not conſent to the Article of Neutrality, they would ſign without them. But, that it was done, and ſince his Majeſty was ſo well pleaſed with it, as it ſeemed by *Monſieur Van Beuninghen*'s Letter, they muſt make their beſt of it, and drive it on to a Peace, in caſe *France* would be ſincere in it with the *Spaniards*.

niards. But that he much doubted it, unleſs the ſame Reſolutions and Paces of his Majeſty, which had engaged him to promiſe the evacuation of the Places, ſhould bring it to a Concluſion. He was very melancholly upon what Condition this Peace would leave all the Affairs of the Allies in, and the juſt Reproaches this State was to expect from them; which he was to bear his ſhare in, how little ſoever he had deſerved it. He ſaid a great deal of *Monſieur de Cros*'s Journey, and what Effects it had here; but that he had not yet ſpoken with the States, and could not tell what it was they would be at: But that he would ſee me to day, after he had been in the Aſſembly. I found him unſatisfied with Monſieur *Beverning*, but yet of opinion, that he muſt return to *Nimeguen*, and end this Buſineſs of *Spain*, without which it could not be a Peace.

The ſame day I ſpoke with Monſieur *Van Lewen*, who told me, the *French* Ambaſſadors had conſented to the redreſſing the 10*th Article*, in the manner I writ in my laſt; and that the States *auroient crevé plutôt que de faire la paix ſans cela.* That no State could have greater Obligation than this had to his Majeſty, and that every body in it was ſenſible that they owed the Peace wholly to him, in caſe they had

it, which would yet depend upon that between *France* and *Spain*; and this upon his Majeſty's Reſolutions to ſupport them in ſtanding firmly upon it, as the Point upon which their own Treaty was grounded.

This Afternoon the Prince came to me, and told me, he found a general Diſpoſition in the States, not to ratify the Peace, till *Spain* ſhould be ready to do it at the ſame time. But yet, he deſired very much, that his Majeſty would give me Orders to preſs them upon this Point, if there ſhould be occaſion, and that nothing new ſhould be impoſed upon the *Spaniards* beyond the Conditions given in by the *French* at *Nimeguen*: He deſired likewiſe that his Majeſty would give order to his Ambaſſador at *Nimeguen*, to propoſe as from his Majeſty a general ſuſpenſion of Arms for Six Months, in order to the Treating of a General Peace; and deſired me that I would not fail to repreſent both theſe Points to his Majeſty from his Highneſs by this Poſt. He ſaith, by Advices from *Nimeguen*, he finds the *French* Ambaſſadors there ſeem well enough diſpoſed to it, upon the *Nuntio*'s having already propoſed it; but, that nothing will give it ſo much Force as coming from his Majeſty, and therefore is very earneſt in it.

Mr.

Mr. *Meredith* ſends you the Treaty printed, as likewiſe that for ceſſation of Hoſtilities, ſo that I ſhall not increaſe your preſent Trouble beyond the Aſſurance of my being always,

SIR,

Your, &c.

P. S.

THE Prince has engaged *Monſieur Beverning* to come to Town to morrow; ſo as the States of *Holland* will then fall into conſultation upon the Points in difference between *France* and *Spain*.

To

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Aug. 26th. 1678. S. N.

My LORD,

I Had the honour of one from your Lordſhip of the 12*th*, by my *Secretary*, who came over with Mr. *Hyde*. I will not enter into the Reaſons of this warm and ſudden Motion in *England*, nor can I into the Effects of it abroad. A little time will tell us the laſt: And for the firſt; it is my part rather to look towards the Events, than enquire into the Cauſes of it. All I ſhall ſay is, that it has extremely ſurprized every body here, and none more than the Prince, unleſs it be my ſelf. For your Lordſhip knows, when I came away, his Majeſty's Reſolution was, to have the Peace if he could, upon the Evacuation of the Places; and in the courſe of this whole Matter, to follow and ſupport *Holland* in the Paces they ſhould make, and not to lead them: And you may remember I told his Majeſty at the Foreign Committee, that I knew very well the Diſpoſitions of *Holland* towards the Peace were ſuch, that if he ſhould have had a Deſign to engage them farther

farther in the War, his Endeavours towards it muſt be like thoſe of Rowers, that look one way and go another. I ſhould have been glad his Majeſty would have begun upon this Occaſion, what your Lordſhip tells me he has reſolved, of concerting firſt with the Prince any meaſures he ſhould take, eſpecially in what relates to theſe Countries, where he can certainly give his Majeſty the beſt Lights, and ſuch as it is not poſſible for his Majeſty to have, in taking ſudden Reſolutions upon Affairs that are in motion, and have ſuch ſudden Turns. As in this it ſelf, his Majeſty could not know that the Prince had himſelf concluded a Ceſſation of Hoſtility with *France*, till the ratification of the Treaty. And yet that very Circumſtance made a great change in the Event like to attend Mr. *Hyde*'s Commiſſion. The Particular of his Inſtruction, to ſay, his Majeſty would recall his Forces out of *Flanders*, in caſe the States fell not into his Opinion of the late Treaty's having place; was, I ſuppoſe, intended to draw them into his Majeſty's preſent Mind, and thereby to ſave *Flanders* as well as *Holland* from falling into the hands or dependance of *France*: But the Prince and Penſioner ſeverally, at the very firſt mention of it, concluded it would have a quite contrary effect, and

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muſt certainly occaſion the loſs both of this Country and *Flanders*, as you will find by Mr. *Hyde*'s Diſpatch; which is ſo exact, that I can add nothing to it towards his Majeſty's Information; only I will tell your Lordſhip what the Prince ſaid to me laſt Night upon it: Which was, that he was very glad to ſee his Majeſty in this Mind, and that he knew very well what Effects it would have had, if they had been aſſured of it here Three Weeks ago: But what it would have now, he could not tell; for they were all ſo ſurprized, eſpecially after *Monſieur Van Beuninghen*'s Letter, which ſaid ſo much of his Majeſty's being pleaſed with the Peace, that no body had ſaid a Word upon it. That, for his part, if he had been firſt conſulted in it, he ſhould have been for his Majeſty's ſending to the States, not to ratify the Treaty without *Spain*'s ratifying theirs at the ſame Time, and being thereby aſſured of the Evacuation to follow immediately. That if his Majeſty had only preſſed this, and aſſured the States at the ſame time of his Reſolution to ſupport them by a vigorous Execution of their Treaty, in caſe of any Refuſal or Difficulty from *France*; he was confident the Thing would have been done, and thereby

by either *Spain* been included, or the States gone on with the War. But that he did not know what Effect This now come from his Majeſty would produce in the great Towns of *Holland*, where they were ſo apt to be jealous of his Highneſs's Deſigns to continue the War. That we ſhould ſee in a few Days, and that he chiefly apprehended the Town of *Amſterdam* upon it.

What your Lordſhip ſays of your forbearing to ſay thoſe Things I deſired you to tell his Majeſty about my ſelf, is too obliging in you not to be acknowledged: But yet I muſt beg your Lordſhip to believe, that none can judge ſo well of a Man as himſelf; who feels what is within, whilſt others only ſee what is without; and finds the Decays of Age or Indiſpoſition in his Body and his Mind, while he may diſguiſe them to other People. Whenever I thought my ſelf able to do his Majeſty Service, though I never ſought it, yet I never refuſed it: But whenever I ſhall find my ſelf incapable of doing it any longer, and let his Majeſty know it, I hope he will believe it: And in the mean time I beg your Lordſhip not to think any thing I ſay of that kind is Humour, but a true Judgment I make of my ſelf by what I feel, and what I told both his Majeſty and your Lordſhip

Lordſhip before I came over, would happen to me by any long ſtay in theſe Countries, which have ever been ſo contrary to my Health.

I cannot tell your Lordſhip how ſenſible a Part I bear in the Indiſpoſition of the Family as well as your own, but comfort my ſelf with the Hopes Mr. *Aglionby* gives me, of their being well over; and will not engage your Lordſhip, at preſent, in any farther Trouble, than the aſſurance of my being ever with equal Paſſion and Truth,

My LORD,

Your, &c.

To

To the Duke of *ORMOND.*

Hague, Aug. 30*th.* S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

I Could not receive a greater Honour or Satisfaction than by your Grace's Letter of the 12*th* paſt; which I ſhould ſooner have acknowledged, but that ſince my laſt I have been engaged in ſuch ſuddain and unexpected Motions, as well as the Buſineſs here in ſuch Turns, as have left me neither Time nor Patience; nor Concernment enough ſometimes, to think of many things I ought to have done: Among which, I reckoned all Duties I owed to your Grace, and this in that Number.

I ſhall as Succinctly as I can, perſue the Thread of thoſe two Accounts I gave your Grace at my leaving *England*, and ſince my Arrival here to this time. After which I do not expect to meet with any thing worth your Grace's Trouble or my own; having my Head turned wholly another way, and cured of thoſe impertinent Sollicitudes which have ſo often buſied it about Publick Affairs, and to ſo little purpoſe.

After

After my laſt to your Grace, and till the 4*th* of this Month and this Style; I took my ſelf to have maſtered the Buſineſs his Majeſty had ſent me upon here. The Treaty was Signed, and by it the Day fix'd, being the 11*th* inſtant; for *France* to yield the Evacuation of the Places, or his Majeſty to come into the War with the States. *France* had ſailed of all their Endeavours to break theſe Meaſures: The States had reſolved not to ſend their Deputies to treat with the *French* King in Perſon at St. *Quintin*, and not to Sign their Treaty even upon the Evacuation being yielded; unleſs in Conjunction with *Spain*. The Time of Deciſion drew near, and the moſt *Chriſtian* King ſeemed ſo far engaged by his peremptory Anſwers to his Majeſty, as well as by his Ambaſſadors Declarations at *Nimeguen*, not to evacuate the Places till the Satisfaction of *Sueden*, that every Body was at a gaze, which would prove of moſt weight, this Point of Honour, or that of Intereſt; not to ſee *England* engaged in ſuch a Confederacy againſt *France*: And in the mean time, whether it ſhould prove a Peace or a War. The Meaſures were ſo cloſed between us and *Holland*, that nothing in appearance was like to ſhake them. For, though upon my Signing the Treaty, Mr. Secretary *Williamſon* had found great Faults with many Particulars of it, and ſent me Orders to

get

get them amended, or else the King could not ratify; yet they being such Points as had been impossible to be obtained here, and wherein I was left at Liberty by my Instructions; this Difficulty had only been communicated to the Prince and the Pensioner here, who had Confidence of Satisfying his Majesty in those Particulars, without making them Publick; which they thought would have ill Effects upon the States at so Critical a time in the Measures between us.

Upon the 4*th* Current, Mr. *Meredith* the King's Secretary of the Ambassy, who had gone over with the Treaty, arrived here; and in his Company one *Monsieur de Cros*, Stiled at *London* Envoy of the Duke of *Holstein*. Mr. *Meredith* brought me an Instruction to let the States know, that the King had resolved to give a Guaranty upon the Peace, to the Neutrality which *Spain* should enter upon towards the Enemies of *Sweden*; and that I had command to go immediately to *Nimeguen*, to acquaint the *Swedish* Ambassadors there with this Resolution of his Majesty, and endeavour thereby to induce them to quit their Pretension of being restored before the Evacuation of the Towns; that so *France* might be at Liberty to make that Pace towards the Peace. My Instructions told me likewise, that this was done upon Insinuations made his Ma-

jeſty by *de Cros*, who was ſent at the ſame time to the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors upon this Occaſion.

De Cros came to me, and told me, the King had taken this Meaſure with *Monſieur Barillon*, and ſent an Expreſs over with it into *France*. That he was reſolved upon the Peace, and to that purpoſe had haſtned me away to *Nimeguen*; whether he (*De Cros*) hoped to attend me. I told him, he knew his own Times and Motions; and that I ſhould govern my ſelf in mine, by my Orders and his Majeſty's Intentions, as far as I underſtood them. And ſo we parted.

I was in the greateſt Trouble in the World whether to obey my Inſtructions, or firſt acquaint the King with the Conſequence of them here. I ſtay'd three days after *de Cros*, before I went to *Nimeguen*; but at laſt was reſolved in the Point, by finding that *de Cros* had made all publick here; was gone to do the ſame at *Nimeguen*, and had perſuaded the *Swediſh* Commiſſary to come and tell me, that their Ambaſſadors had not abſolutely deſiſted, but only declared that they would do ſo, and expected my coming to determine them. Upon all which, the Penſioner as well as I were both of opinion, that it was neceſſary for me to acquaint the States

with

with what his Majeſty had ordered me, and to go away to *Nimeguen*; and not give the States of *Holland* occaſion to believe, that I endeavoured to hinder his Majeſty's Paces towards the Peace, in favour of what they here ſuſpect of the Prince's Inclination to carry on the War.

On the *6th* inſtant, I acquainted the States with his Majeſty's Reſolution, and my Journey; and on the *7th* I ſet out to *Nimeguen*, where I arrived the *8th*; and immediately found, that on the *6th* the *French* Ambaſſadors had declared by Memorial to the *Dutch*, that they deſiſted from their Pretenſion to detain the Towns till the Satisfaction of *Sweden*; in purſuit of a Declaration the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors had made to them about ten days before. But the *French* ſtill inſiſted upon the *Dutch* ſending to St. *Quintin*, to adjuſt other Points of the Peace. On the ninth, the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors gave their Anſwer to the *French*: That the States could not ſend to St. *Quintin* till the Peace was ſigned, but that they were ready to ſign upon the Evacuation of the Places, and ſhould be ſo all the next day; but after that ended, they could make no farther Pace without his Majeſty, whoſe Meaſures taken with them by Treaty, would take place on the *11th* of this Month.

On the 11*th* in the morning the *French* Ambaſſadors came to the *Dutch*; and in a Conference of five hours, wherein they preſs'd very much to keep ſome of the Towns, but found the *Dutch* obſtinate in all; they yielded at laſt, and agreed to ſign the Treaty, and both came to us the Mediators to deſire us to ſign with them. We asked whether *Spain* Signed at the ſame time, and were included, and finding they did not; we refuſed to Sign with them, or at all to intervene in the Treaty without new Orders; ſince ours directed us to all Paces neceſſary for a general Peace, but not to any for a particular one. We expoſtulated with the *Dutch* for going about to Sign without *Spain*, contrary to what had always been his Majeſty's and the States Intention; but *Monſieur Beverning* ſaid, he muſt Sign that Night though he loſt his Head; and ſo they did, between eleven and twelve a Clock; the Inſtrument having been hardly finiſhed by that hour; when our laſt Treaty with *Holland* for carrying on the War would have begun to take place.

Next day they fell into the Buſineſs between *France* and *Spain*; wherein they met with ſo many Difficulties by new Demands of the *French*, that they confeſſed they found plainly the *French* Deſigns in this Preci-

Precipitation; which was; that the *Spaniards* might not have leiſure to adjuſt their Treaty, ſo as to Sign at the ſame time, nor the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors have leiſure to ſend a Courier to the States for particular Orders, whether to Sign or no without *Spain*; and thereby to divide the States from *Spain*, and concluding their Peace ſeparately with the firſt, be obliged only to reſtore *Maeſtricht*, but keep the Places in *Flanders* ſtill in their Hands.

Upon this *Monſieur Beverning* told us, that they had made a Pace that had ruined both the States and all their Neighbours; and when he ſaid the ſame to his Allies, laid the Fault upon his Majeſty; who had (as he ſaid from *Van Beuninghen's* Letter out of *England*) firſt refuſed to ratify the late Treaty without Conditions that were not poſſible for this State to admit; and by *du Cros's* Journey had ſatisfyed the States what Meaſures the King had taken with *France* for the Peace, and how little was expected from *England* as to any Rupture with that Crown. Of all which we gave account to Court.

On the 13*th* at Night I received by Expreſs the notice of the Ratification of his Majeſty's Treaty with this State, being arrived at the *Hague*, and Commands to exchange them without thoſe Difficulties

that had before been made by Secretary *Williamſon*. The laſt day allowed for this Exchange was the *5th*, ſo that if the Expreſs had by Winds or other Accident been kept four and twenty hours longer upon the Way, or I had not gone all Night as well as all Day; I could not have come time enough from *Nimeguen* to the *Hague*, to make the Exchange: And the whole Treaty, upon which his Majeſty began to put ſo much weight, had been out of doors.

The Ratifications being exchanged in Time and Form, the Penſioner with the greateſt Chagrin in the World complained of *de Cros*'s Journey, as that which had ruined the whole Affair, by giving ſuch Impreſſions here and at *Nimeguen*, as had precipitated the Signing of the Peace without *Spain*; and told me, the Prince had never been ſo troubled at any thing in his Life; and that he doubted it would engage him in ſome deſperate Action. The ſame Night being the *15th*, I received Letters from *England*, telling me, they had diſcovered the Artifice of *de Cros* in that whole Buſineſs, and how miſchievous it might prove, and that they hoped I had not purſued my Inſtructions, as I had certainly not done, if they had been ſent privately to me, and the whole Buſineſs

not

not been communicated to him: But the Thing was done, and all I could ſay of it was, that having found at my Arrival at *Nimeguen*, the *Swedes* had actually made the Pace towards which his Majeſty ſeemed wholly to aim by my Inſtruction; I had never ſaid any thing of it to the *Swediſh* Ambaſſadors, and thereby left *de Cros* wholly diſcredited with Them and the *French*, and all others there: And told them that I found plainly his whole Buſineſs was a *Fourberie*; which ſent him Home railing at me, that I would not obey my Orders, and that I was reſolved to engage the King in a War, when his Majeſty was reſolved not to enter into any with *France*.

On the 16*th* at Night, we received News of the Prince's bold Action near *Mons*: For the Honour whereof, I will only tell your Grace, that the *French* Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen* had aſſured me, that their Army was ſo Poſted, that if they had but ten thouſand Men, and the Prince fifty thouſand; he would find it impoſſible to attack them.

The Succeſs of it you will have heard from many Hands; and found, that after the Prince no Man had a greater ſhare in the Danger and Honour of it than My Lord *Oſſory*, who charged upon the moſt

desperate Pass, and left a great many Men and Officers behind him. For the Prince, all agree, there was not a common Soldier in the Army so much exposed, leading up every Squadron himself in the Wing he charged, and being the whole time of the Engagement in the very hottest of the Fire.

The Day after the Battle, the Prince received the States Letters; giving him an Account of the Peace being Signed; upon which he sent to the Duke of *Luxemburg*, to know if he would upon it raise the Siege of *Mons:* For which he took two days time to send for Orders, and then consented to do it; and so the Affair ended, and the Armies retired to their Quarters. If some Miscarriages had not happened in this Action from some of the Confederates, the *French* Army had certainly been broken that day. And if the news of the Peace being made publick, with some other Circumstances had not prevented it the next; the Business would have come to a great Decision between the Armies, and with much appearance of Advantage to the *Dutch*, upon the Conjunction with a Body of fresh *English* Foot, which would have had great Influence upon all Sides. But it was otherwise decreed.

On

On the 19*th*, Letters came from *England*, but none to me from Court; upon the belief I might be at *Nimeguen*, as Mr. Secretary pretended. But the Letters from *Monſieur Van Beuninghen* to the States ſaid; though the King and Court had, at firſt report of the Peace being Signed, ſeemed a great deal ſurprized; yet he had next day talked with them, and found them very well pleaſed with it, and with the Conduct of the States: And a private Letter to the Foreign Miniſters here ſaid, it went ſo far, that they were upon the Point of diſowning me and Sir *L. Jenkins*, for refuſing to Sign the Peace as Mediators.

On the 22*d*, the Prince arrived here, and having been in the States the 23*d*, where he was received with great Applauſe: He came to me that Evening; and after Complaints of their Ambaſſadors having Signed the Peace without *Spain*, and the ill Conſequences it was like to have upon the Affairs of *Chriſtendom*: He ſaid, however ſince his Majeſty was pleaſed with it, there was nothing to be done but to endeavour to include *Spain* in it; and afterwards to drive it on to a general Peace; without which, *France* having all their Forces at liberty on this Side, would in very little time be Maſters of the *Rhine*, and all the

great

great Cities upon it, from *Strasburg* to *Cologne*, if not to *Wesel*; and after that would soon be Masters of these Countries and *Flanders*. And therefore he desired, his Majesty would propose a general Suspension of Arms by his Ambassadors at *Nimeguen*: Which I writ the same Night to Court, upon the Prince's Desire, and with the Reasons of it.

The next day being the 24*th*, Mr. *Hyde* arrived here, having made his Passage in twenty four Hours from *London*; and brought positive Instructions with him to let the States know, how much the King had been surprized with their Ambassadors Signing the Treaty without *Spain*, and with the Difficulties that still remained upon the *Spanish* Treaty, and the Evacuation of the Places. That his Majesty was thereupon of opinion that the States could not ratify that Treaty; by what they were engaged to by the last Treaty I had made here to go on with the War: And that if they were of the same mind, and would signify it to him, he would within three days after such Signification, declare War against *France*, and in all Points pursue the last Treaty he had made with the States.

We acquainted the Prince that Night with this Commission; and the first Word he

he ſaid upon it was; that he knew very well what Effect this would have had, if it had come three Weeks before, and inſtead of *Monſieur de Cros*: But what effect it would have now, he could not tell, farther than that it would ſurprize every Body. What he ſaid to me in private was, that we were too cold and too hot; and that he wondred we had not obſerved what they were always calling out to the *Steerſmen* at Sea; *Steddy, Steddy.* That all we could hope to make out of this was, but to keep up the States in the Reſolution they were in already, of not Ratifying the Treaty without *Spain.* But it had another effect at the firſt noiſe upon the Towns here, and ſo far encreaſed the Jealouſy of ſome concert between the King and Prince of *Orange*, for carrying on the War; tho' *France* ſhould perform the Conditions this State had accepted; that the very next day after Mr. *Hyde's* Propoſition, thoſe of *Holland* paſſed a Reſolution to ſend an Ambaſſador immediately into *France*, though under pretence of knowing that King's Mind, upon the differences remaining with *Spain*: And the next day thoſe of *Amſterdam* propoſed to Ratify the Treaty with *France*, even without the Incluſion of *Spain.* But the Prince's great Temper and Conduct hindred both one and t'other:

ther: The first, by the Voices of five other Provinces against that of *Holland*; and the other, by the rest of the Towns in *Holland* against that of *Amsterdam*: And brought it to a Resolution, both in the States of *Holland*, and States-General, not to Ratify the Peace without *Spain*; and to order their Ambassadors at *Nimeguen* to go as far as possibly they can in accommodating the Points still in difference; which are small and few, and upon which I see no likelihood that either *Spain* or this State will continue the War. So that if *France* will have a Peace, and not raise new Difficulties beyond their own Propositions, I look upon it as unavoidable: And there has not been one time these four years past, when we might not have entered into the War with Advantage, besides this alone, when we have made an Offer at it, and thereby I suppose broke our Measures with *France*; though we have not taken them with the Confederates.

By last Post the King sent Orders to Sir *Lyonel Jenkins* at *Nimeguen*, to propose a general Suspension of Arms for six Months, in concurrence, as Mr. Secretary *Williamson* writes, with the Prince's desire. But the Prince asks how this agrees now with Mr. *Hyde*'s Proposition; and observes, that

that when he desired it, 'twas before he knew any thing of this last Resolution of his Majesty's; and on the contrary thought him pleased with the Peace. In short, whoever should take the pains to lay together the Paces we have made for these three Months past in this great Affair, would conclude, our Secretaries of State never remembred one day, what had been done the day before, or never cared what would be done the next. I am so far from speaking this with Design, that I am for my own part resolved to lay at his Majesty's Feet the Promise he made me a year ago of that Employment, as well as the Ambassy I am charged with: And should certainly have done it already, but the Prince has engaged me to defer it till this present Crisis be over, and till he shall have talked with me to the end of this Resolution.

I have nothing more worth increasing your Grace's trouble, and ought to ask Pardon for the Length of this. But I was resolved to give you once this Light, by which the farther Paces of this Affair may be better discerned even at the Distance your Grace is at.

I ſhall only add, that in whatever Condition,

I am,

My LORD,

Your Grace's, &c.

To My Lord *Treaſurer*.

Hague, *Aug.* 30*th.* S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

I Have this Morning received the Honour of your Lordſhip's in my Son's Hands; the Contents whereof chiefly concerning the Prince; I thought fit to ſend it him immediately, though it found his Highneſs in the States of *Holland*, where the great Conſultation or rather Debate was, to begin upon the Commiſſion Mr. *Hyde* brought over. Becauſe your Lordſhip pleaſes to ſay, you are impatient to know what my Opinion is upon the whole, after my Diſcourſe with the Prince and Penſioner: I will add what I can think of, that may give you any farther Light than

than I did in my laſt upon this Occaſion; and in ſuch a Conjuncture may poſſibly be done by ſmall Circumſtances ſometimes, better than by great.

The firſt Word the Prince ſaid upon it to Mr. *Hyde* and me together, after he acquainted his Highneſs with his whole Inſtruction, was: That he knew very well what Effect this would have had, if it had come over three Weeks ago inſtead of *Monſieur de Cros*; but that he could not tell what Effect it would have now, more than that it would ſurprize every Body: But that for his own part, he was very glad to find the King in that Mind, and thought it might to do Good, and could do no Harm. And then ſaid all that paſſed farther, of which Mr. *Hyde* gave you ſo exact an Account laſt Poſt.

The next day, the Prince ſpeaking to me in private upon it; at firſt lift up his Hands and Eyes two or three times, and ſaid; Is it poſſible that this and *de Cros*'s Buſineſs could come from the ſame Hands: That he found by Mr. *Hyde*'s Inſtructions, the King was troubled about what he had done in that Buſineſs: But it was a Pace that could not be diſcovered; and that his reſolving to warrant the Neutrality of *Spain* had undone us all; for without that, this State would never have done it, nor never

never have Signed without *Spain*, if *de Cros* had not perſuaded them here, that the King had abſolutely taken his Meaſures with *France* about the Peace. That the deſign of *de Cros*'s Journey was laid after Monſieur *Barillon* knew, his Maſter had reſolved to Sign the Peace upon yielding to evacuate the Towns. That the end of it was to ſhake his Majeſty's Meaſures here; by making them believe he had taken them abſolutely with *France* about the Peace, and to loſe his Majeſty's Credit wholly with all the Allies; by letting them know, he was reſolved to bring about the Reſtitution of *Sweden*, as ſoon as *Holland* was out of the War: And to have me ſent to *Nimeguen*, juſt at the ſame time, that I might have hindred the Signing a Peace without *Spain* by my being here. That the *French* Ambaſſadors had told Monſieur *Odyke* immediately upon *de Cros*'s Arrival, that I had Orders to come away preſently becauſe I was making the War here, while his Majeſty had taken his Meaſures with *France* for the Peace; and that it was a bold thing of me to ſtay at the *Hague*, contrary to my poſitive Orders. The Prince added, that he knew from a good Hand, by whom this whole Buſineſs had been brought about, and made very Melancholy Reflections upon it. That, for Mr.

Hyde's

Hyde's Commiſſion, it would ſurprize the more here; becauſe after this very Buſineſs, and the Signing of the Peace being known in *England*; Monſieur *Van Beuninghen* had writ to the States, that the King approved of what they had done, and was glad of it. That it was too Cold, and too Hot: And that for his part, he always thought of the *Batſwain* in the *Yatchts* which brought him over; who was all Night crying out ſtill to the Steerſman, *Steddy*, *Steddy*; which he thought was as neceſſary in all Council as at Sea. After this, he told me what Uſe he hoped might be made of it (which I writ your Lordſhip laſt Poſt) but that it could not bring the State again into War, unleſs *France* ſhould refuſe to Sign with *Spain* upon ſuch Conditions as the State ſhould think *Spain* had reaſon in; or elſe refuſe actually to evacuate the Towns, or to change the thirteenth Article of the Treaty.

Theſe were the Prince's true Thoughts upon it. Monſieur *de Lyra* the *Spaniſh* Miniſter ſaid upon it at firſt; that this Reſolution of his Majeſty was a Miracle wrought for *Spain* and this State, if they could be ſo wiſe as to make uſe of it: But that he foreſaw the States would not: That the Thing was gone too far ſince the Signing of the Peace by the States Am-

baſſadors, and of the Ceſſation of Hoſtility by the Prince; and that *Spain* could not hope to better their Terms by it; becauſe this State would not fall in with his Majeſty, unleſs *France* ſhould refuſe to evacuate the Towns, which he was ſure they would not do. So that what they could hope was, that the States ſeeing his Majeſty ſo firm in it, would at leaſt ſecure the evacuation of the Towns to *Spain*, as well as that of *Maeſtricht* to themſelves: But that he was afraid of this generous Pace in his Majeſty having an Effect upon the Jealouſy, *Amſterdam* and ſome of the other great Towns had of the Prince; and his Deſign to continue the War in concert with *England*.

The Marquis *de Grana* (who is the Emperor's chief Miniſter in all theſe Parts; and one of the beſt in all kinds that I have met with) told me yeſterday in private Conference; *Que la doſe eſt trop forte*; and that it had already encreaſed the Jealouſy of *Amſterdam* ſo much, that they had given their Opinion the very next day (after Mr. *Hyde*'s Propoſition) to Ratify the Treaty with *France*. That the King had reaſon in his Opinion, to ſay, the Caſe of our Treaty was fallen; and that if the States were as deſirous to continue the War, as his Majeſty ſeemed now to go into it; they

they might make the *French* Proceedings in this Matter a very juſt Occaſion, as not having performed the Intentions of our Treaty. But that there was no thought of bringing them into the War upon a *Chicane* about Words, whether the *French* Declaration were in Form, or their Promiſe in Writing. That beſides, there were many who wiſhed well to the Thing; but did not know what to make of this *Boutade* in *England*, and had no Confidence in it; ſince what *Van Beuninghen* and others had written the Poſt before, about his Majeſty's being pleaſed with the Treaty; and ſo far, that he, the Marquis, ſaw a Letter out of *England* by that very Poſt; which ſaid, the King was ſo much ſatisfied with it, that he was upon the Point of diſowning Sir *L. Jenkins* and me, for having refuſed to Sign the Treaty. That for his part, he looked upon all as deſperate: That *France* would *faire quelque grand coup en Allemagne* theſe two Months, and after the *Germans* ſhould retire into Winter Quarters, would come back with all their Forces in *Flanders*, and maſter it, in caſe the Towns ſhould not be evacuated before that time; which they would endeavour by all the Delays towards *Spain*; and all the Artifices poſſible towards this State. That whatever came of it, he found, his

Maſter the Emperor was abſolutely reſolved never to ſeparate himſelf from the Princes of the Empire in the Courſe of the Treaty; but leave the Event to God Almighty.

Laſt night late, the Prince told me, that he hoped to have the Majority of Voices very conſiderably in this Province, and the other Provinces entirely; for not Ratifying their Treaty till *Spain* had Signed. That for his part, he would endeavour all he could, that they might not do it till *Spain* ſhould be ready to Ratify at the ſame time: But that he could have no hopes of carrying it any farther, unleſs *France* ſhould refuſe to conclude with *Spain* upon the Propoſitions they had offered at *Nimeguen*; and which *Spain* had accepted. That if they could by his Majeſty's Firmneſs ſecure the Towns in the *Spaniards* Hands, and thereby for the preſent ſave *Flanders*: All that he ſaw to be done, was to preſs the whole Buſineſs on towards a general Peace; ſince without it, after this State and *Spain* were out of the War, he did not ſee what could hinder *France* from taking *Treves*, *Cologn*, *Ments*, and *Strasburgh*; though they ſhould not invade *Cleves* and *Juliers* preſently: And that after they had maſtered the *Rhine*, they would

would ſoon do the ſame by this Country and *Flanders*.

This morning I heard, that five of the greateſt Towns in *Holland* next *Amſterdam*, and three of the chief of *North-Holland*, as well as the Nobles; were certainly fixed in not Ratifying their Treaty without *Spain*: And that ſome of them were reſolved to fall Perſonally upon Monſieur *Valkener*; who had abſolutely governed *Amſterdam* in the Opinion they had taken, and with whom Monſieur *Van Lewen* had a ſharp and Perſonal Bruſh the laſt day the States of *Holland* were Aſſembled. How late they may ſit to day, I know not; but hope I may before the Cloſure of this Pacquet give your Lordſhip ſome Account how the Debate runs, though I do not expect this Sitting ſhould end it.

Having given your Lordſhip ſuch a particular Account of thoſe Perſons Thoughts upon it, which I eſteem moſt conſiderable here, and who are leaſt likely to be deceived. I ſhall not add any Judgment of my own, which ends but in one Point I mentioned in my laſt to your Lordſhip: That all Inſtructions his Majeſty can give to any Man here, ought to be executed, (and directed to be ſo) in concert with the Prince, in caſe his Judgment upon them

were not had before: And Mr. *Hyde* is moſt abſolutely of this Opinion; and wiſhes often, that ſuch a Clauſe had been in his, in caſe he ſhould find the Prince here. For want of it he has been engaged to purhis Inſtructions already, farther than he thought the Thing would well bear; and is in great pain what to do upon the laſt Point of them, about his Majeſty's Reſolution to recall his Troops, in caſe the States fall not into his Majeſty's preſent Mind upon the Treaty; which the Prince and Penſioner hitherto are of Opinion, would be a moſt Deſtructive Pace to the whole Buſineſs.

I am ever with equal Paſſion and Truth.

My LODR,

Tour, &c.

To

To the Prince Elector *PALATINE.*

Hague, Septem. 8th. S. N. 1678.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs,

I Received ſome time ſince the Honour of a Letter from Your Highneſs, of *July 29th*, by the Conveyance of my Lord Ambaſſador *Jenkins*, and ſhould not have failed immediately to make that Return which became me in the Acknowledgments of it, if it had found me in my ſtation at *Nimeguen*, as your Highneſs intended. But being divided between theſe two Ambaſſies, and finding the Duties of them ſometimes different, I cannot pretend to charge my ſelf with any parts of my Function as a Mediator there, while I find my ſelf engaged in another ſort of Figure during my Abode here. Beſides, I was willing to ſee what Paces his Majeſty might think fit to make or decline in the Buſineſs of a General Peace, before I gave my ſelf the Honour of entertaining your Highneſs upon the ſhare you are like to have in it. But ſince the King has thought fit to pro-

poſe a Ceſſation of Six Months in order towards it: I ſhall preſume to tell your Highneſs my Opinion freely upon thoſe Two Points, wherein *Monſieur Spanheim* told me you were pleaſed chiefly to concern your ſelf. For the firſt, about *Philipsburg*, I do not ſee how a Peace between *France* and the Empire can be purſued upon any other Foot than what your Highneſs propoſes to your ſelf in that Matter; ſo that I believe a General Neceſſity will therein ſerve to advance and to effect a particular Intereſt which your Highneſs lays ſo much to heart, and with ſo much Reaſon. For the other Pretenſion of Relief and Reparation of the great Damages your Highneſs has ſuffered by the War; ſince your Highneſs intends (and I think prudently) to inſiſt no farther upon it, than by engaging his Majeſty's Offices and Inſtances towards *France*; I think your Highneſs will do better to procure them immediately by your Miniſter at *London*, to be tranſmitted from Court to the King's Ambaſſador at *Paris*, with Orders to purſue and value them there, as a particular and Domeſtick Concernment which his Majeſty takes in your Highneſs's Intereſts, rather than truſt to their being handed over to the King's Ambaſſadors Mediators at *Nimeguen*, perhaps in a Croud

Croud of many other Princes Pretenſions, which may all be recommended in his Majeſty's Name, and by his Miniſters there, but not with that Earneſtneſs and Diſtinction, which I ſhould be glad the Crown of *England* would expreſs upon all Occaſions, in what concerns your Highneſs or your Family.

I beg your Highneſs's Pardon for ſo long an Interruption, and your Belief of my being ever with great Devotion and Truth,

SIR,

Your Highneſs's, &c.

To

To My Lord Treaſurer

Hague, Sept. 20*th.* S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

YOur Lordſhip will have found by my Laſt to Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*, what the great Affair here was like to end in; and by Mr. *Hyde*'s this Ordinary, that it has abſolutely taken that Ply which was then deſigned by the Prince and Penſioner, and approved by *Monſieur de Lyra* as all that could be wiſh'd; or at leaſt, that they could propoſe to themſelves after the Courſe it has run for theſe Two or Three Months paſt. The Circumſtances with which it was concluded yeſterday may be worth his Majeſty's Knowledge; and therefore I thought fit to trouble your Lordſhip with them: When it was propoſed in the Form I mentioned in my Laſt, the Town of *Amſterdam* oppoſed it, and ſaid abſolutely, they had no Orders from their Principals farther than barely to ratify the Treaty, without other Circumſtances or Conditions. That for any Security could be propoſed to the *Spaniards* in their Treaty, or afterwards, for *Flanders*, it was provided

for

for ſufficiently in the Article between his Majeſty and this State concerning a *Guarantee* to be given by them jointly for the Peace between *France* and *Spain*.

In this Propoſition the Town of *Amſterdam* (which uſed ever to have One or Two of the great Towns in cloſe Intelligence with them, and Two or Three of the ſmall ones in a ſervile Dependance) had now the ill luck not to be ſeconded by any one Town of the whole Province of *Holland*: But all of them run down the Deputies of that Town with ſuch Violence, and particular Reſentment againſt their Conduct in the whole courſe of this Negotiation, that they ſuffered the Thing to paſs without any farther Debate or Oppoſition, and to be drawn up with all the ſtrength that the Prince could deſire, both as to the *Dutch* Ambaſſadors declaring to the *French* at *Nimeguen* upon delivering the Ratifications, that it was done upon this Condition; That the Treaty likewiſe with *Spain* ſhould be ratified by the Time limitted, and afterwards duly executed; or elſe that the Treaty ſhould be wholly void: And alſo to the States declaring to his Majeſty, that in default of ſuch Performance, the late Treaty between his Majeſty and this State ſhould take effect; and, *le cas du traitté ſeroit tenu pour écheu.*

In

In the whole courſe of this Affair, which held in the States of *Holland* from Three yeſterday Afternoon till Six, and afterwards paſſed in the States General, all the Towns of *Holland* except *Amſterdam*, as well as all the other Provinces, declared in all their whole Diſcourſes upon this whole Subject, that they owed the Peace and Reſtitution of the Towns, and the ſaving of *Flanders*, wholly to his Majeſty. That, without the laſt Treaty, they ſaw plainly, *France* would have yielded to no Terms with *Spain*, nor have made good their own Offers in ſeveral Points to this State. That nothing but a firm Union of this State with *England* could make any ſtop againſt the Ambition and Greatneſs of *France*; and therefore, that they muſt ever ſtick firm to the Alliance with the Crown of *England*, and look upon it as their *Salvator*; which was the Word that run among them. And the Prince himſelf told me, That he never ſaw ſuch a Firmneſs generally among them, as was upon this Point; nor ſuch a Confuſion and Silence as that of the Deputies of *Amſterdam* upon it.

After this was done, the Nobles of *Holland* being the firſt Member of the Province, taking occaſion from a Proteſt which the Town of *Amſterdam* had put in ſome Days ſince, againſt thoſe which intended to diſ-

ficult

ficult or delay the Ratification with *France*, brought in formally a Counterproteſt againſt the Town of *Amſterdam*, ripping up their whole Conduct in the courſe of this Affair, laying this Peace at their Doors, and the ruinous Conſequence of it to the preſent Trade of theſe Countries, as well as to the Intereſt of this State and the Princes their Neighbours and Allies; eſpecially upon the Points of *Cleves* and *Juliers*; and proteſting the Town of *Amſterdam* to be anſwerable for all the Miſchiefs that could any way come upon this State by reaſon of ſuch an unſafe and infamous Peace.

Upon the reading of it Monſieur *Valkener* turned Pale as a Clout, ſo as every body took notice of it; and after it was read, the Deputies of that Town all confeſt, that the Nobles had Reaſon in all they alledged, and that they had only one Thing to ſay for themſelves, which was the Plea of Neceſſity; having been of Opinion, it was impoſſible for the State to ſupport the War any longer.

Thus your Lordſhip will find how true a Meaſure I gave his Majeſty of this Country upon my laſt return from *Nimeguen* after *de Cros*'s Errand, both as to what Effect his Majeſty's ſteddineſs and firmneſs would have in advancing the Prince's Credit and Intereſt, and devolving the whole depen-

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dance of this State upon his Majeſty; and likewiſe as to what Effect every looſe Pace we made with them would certainly have in throwing them wholly upon *France*, even in ſpight of all the Prince ſhould be able to do in reſtraining them. I will only add now my own Opinion as to what will follow the Peace; which is, That whereas it has been the general Thought, that the Prince's Authority was kept up by the War, and would decline upon the Peace; I believe quite the contrary, and that it will very much increaſe upon the Peace it ſelf, becauſe every body will ſee by the courſe of Affairs afterwards, that the Prince was all this while in the True Intereſts of the Country; and that thoſe who advanced ſuch a Peace as this, were certainly out of it, either upon Faction, or Corruption, or want of good Senſe: And by what I hear of the Town of *Amſterdam* themſelves, I believe theſe Two or Three Men that have led Them in this Courſe, will certainly come in a little time to loſe their Credit: And I have ſome Reaſon to think Monſieur *Valkener* would already be glad to compound for that. I cannot but add one Word which paſſed laſt Night between the Prince and me upon this occaſion; which was, That I had not known a Bolder Action of one that was counted a Timorous Man, than this of *Valkener*, to ſet himſelf

himſelf up at the head of a Party here in oppoſition to his Highneſs; not only in regard of his Authority in the State, or his *appuy* from *England*, but chiefly in regard of his Highneſs being ſo abſolute in the Intereſts of the Country: For otherwiſe I ſhould not think it a Bold Thing, if *Valkener* were in it, and his Highneſs out of it. Upon which the Prince replied, No: But on the contrary it would be a bold Thing for me to be out of it; and thoſe that have been ſo, you will ſee ruined even by the Peace they have promoted.

In ſhort, his Majeſty's Firmneſs, and the Prince's ſaving of *Mons*, have brought the Thing to this head, and left his Highneſs n the Poſture he ſtands. It will, I doubt not, continue while his Majeſty is firm and ſteddy in his preſent Meaſures; and *France* is ſo ſenſible of the ill Pace they have made in the firſt Difficulty about evacuating the Towns, that the ſeveral Miniſters of that Crown make it their buſineſs to clear themſelves of it; ſince they find it will not paſs here, to throw it upon the *Swedes*; but I do not ſee how they can ever recover the Truſt they have loſt by it in this Country, nor the Credit of their Party here.

Your Lordſhip will find in Mr. *Hyde's* Letter, two Points upon which the Prince deſired us to write this Ordinary; One about the

the ſatisfaction of his Debts from *Spain*, by the Ceſſion of *Maeſtricht*: The other about the Princeſs's Portion. The Introduction he gave them was, That now he ſaw all Publick Buſineſs draw to an end here, he would begin to think of his own.

Upon the Firſt, I having ſeen his Highneſs ſince Mr. *Hyde*, I adviſed a Turn in it which he approved of; That was, not to pretend abſolutely a Ceſſion of *Maeſtricht* and *Limburg* at preſent, but only that *Spain* ſhould leave them in the hands of the Prince, till they found out a way of acquitting his Debts; the Difficulties whereof will in all appearance put them upon this Expedient themſelves: This I offered becauſe I knew *Monſieur de Lyra* had ſeemed much ſurpriz'd and ſhock'd at this Propoſition this Morning from the Penſioner; tho' I have Reaſon to believe, they are not unprepared for it at *Madrid*. The Prince deſires the Orders his Majeſty ſends to his ſeveral Ambaſſadors upon this Subject may run in that Form.

For the other about the Portion, he deſires his Majeſty will either pay it by the Proportions of Times agreed on, or elſe by ſetting apart ſuch a Summ of the Monthly Tax given by the Parliament, and including this Portion as will make the Payment within the Time agreed on, which is,

is, I think about 4000 *l. per* Month, there being one of the Two Years already paſt.

Your Lordſhip will have obſerved in my laſt Letter to Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*, the Mention of one I had received from the King to the States and my ſelf, about Two Ships taken Three Years ſince by a *Zealand Caper*.

The Letters came thro' Mr. Secretary *Williamſon*'s Office; but in ſuch a Style as Mr. *Hyde* and I were equally amazed, conſidering the Game that was playing here, whether this State ſhould take their Meaſures with *England* or with *France*; ſo we both reſolved it ſhould firſt be ſhewed the Prince. The Matter was of it ſelf in a way of being diſpatch'd, and not in all above the value of Two or Three Thouſand Pounds; and coming without any Line from the Secretary himſelf, we took them to be Things of Form, and procured only by the ſollicitation of the Parties, and without any Reflections of his Majeſtys. When I ſhewed it the Prince, he ſaid, That he hoped I conſider'd the King's Service here, more than to deliver ſuch a Letter: That he was ſure the King never ſaw it; That it was a Letter to have been writ in 1671, when the King was reſolved to quarrel with this State, and not now when he was fallen into Meaſures with them. Nay, he was confident,

Mr. *Secretary* had taken the Draught of the Letters that were written then, and had only chang'd the Names. That the States would certainly interpret it, That his Majeſty had reſolv'd ſtill to quarrel with Them, and had taken his Meaſures again with *France*, which would make them try to do ſo too: That in all the Diſpoſitions of that King here, *Zealand* had ſtill been moſt inclined to *England*, with whom this Breach is threatned to begin: For, entring into it with the Admiralty there, was, in effect, with the whole Province. In ſhort, he ſaid, it would be abſolutely neceſſary to ſuppreſs the Letter, till I had farther Orders, but that he would undertake this Buſineſs ſhould certainly be done.

I ſend your Lordſhip a Copy of the Letter which was directed to me, or the *Secretary* of the Embaſſy here in my Abſence; ſo that if I had not been upon the Place, he had certainly delivered it the next Morning. And, which the Prince thought very hard too, a Copy of the Letter was given to the Perſons that ſollicite it here; ſo that I was fain to deſire them to keep it up to themſelves, till they found whether I could do their Buſineſs or no without it. This puts me in mind of repeating again what I writ to your Lordſhip upon my laſt Return from *Nimeguen*, of the Neceſſity there would be

be, while his Majeſty continues his Meaſures here as they are, for his Miniſters to act upon concert with his Highneſs; at leaſt, till they had made a Repreſentation to his Majeſty upon their Orders, of ſuch Conſequences as could not be, or were not foreſeen in *England* when they were iſſued. I told the Prince at his Return from the Campaign, the firſt time Mr. *Hyde* and I attended him, That I had written to your Lordſhip upon this Subject, and what you had returned of the Commiſſion the King had given you, to aſſure his Highneſs of his Majeſty's Reſolution in it. The Prince ſaid to us both upon it; That the Truth was, if his Majeſty conſidered him as perfectly in his own Intereſts, it ought to be ſo; and that the Prince ought to be the King's Ambaſſador here; and in that Caſe he ſhould be able to ſerve his Majeſty: Which were juſt his Words; and I thought fit to let your Lordſhip know them: Becauſe notwithſtanding what you were pleaſed to ſay, I neither obſerve any ſuch Directions to me ſince, either in general, or in this Particular; nor any to Mr. *Hyde* at his coming away; tho' he brought an Inſtruction with him, which would abſolutely have ſpoiled the King's Buſineſs here, if at the Prince's Deſire he had not ſuppreſs'd it. And 'tis a very hard caſe for an Ambaſſador either

to hinder his Maſter's ſervice (perhaps ruin it) or elſe by ſuppreſſing an Order, to lie under the Laſh of a *Secretary*, who perhaps would be pleaſed with making others ſmart for his own Faults.

There is a Paper lately ſent over to be preſented his Majeſty from the *Lunenburgh* Miniſters at *Nimeguen*, about a Difficulty they have met with in ſeeing Sir *L. Jenkins*, though they pretend to have ſatisfied the Forms his Majeſty requires as to the Competition with the Emperor. All I ſhall ſay upon it is, that Sir *L. Jenkins* is bound up by ſuch ſtrict Orders in theſe Points, that I do not ſee how he can poſſibly with them perform the part of a Mediator; being abſolutely bound up already from ſeeing one of the *Spaniſh*, *Daniſh*, and *Dutch* Ambaſſies, and now theſe of *Lunenburg*, ſo much as in Third Places, or ordinary Converſation or Buſineſs. To either of which I never underſtood how ſuch Orders ſhould be tied, or why That ſhould go any farther than the Buſineſs or Viſits of Ceremony.

I ask your Lordſhip's Pardon for the Length of this Trouble, which was intended only to give you ſuch Lights as I thought might be neceſſary, and you would

would not perhaps receive from any other Hand.

I am ever,

My LORD,

Your, &c.

To the Duke of *ORMOND.*

Hague, Sept. 23d. S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

SInce my Laſt to your Grace, nothing hath paſſed here but what you will have foreſeen, which ended with Mr. *Hyde*'s Propoſition from his Majeſty. The States excuſed themſelves from any formal Anſwer to it for ſome time, not knowing how the Difficulties between *France* and *Spain* were like to determine. The *French* Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen* ſeemed peremptory in their Demands, eſpecially of *Beaumont*, and the *Chatelenye* of *Aeth*; but at length ſubmitted themſelves to the Arbitrage of this State, as the *Spaniards* had done to his Majeſty and them. *Monſieur d'Avaux* came

poſt hither from *Nimeguen* to ſupport his Maſter's Right upon this Arbitrage, which was to be diſpatch'd in five Days, ſo as to make way for ſigning the Peace with *Spain*, before the laſt Day left for the Ratifications with this State, which was the 21*ſt* current. But before he had been Two Days here, a Courier came to him with News, that the King of *France* had generouſly remitted both Points to the *Spaniards* without any Arbitrage, ſo as the Peace was to be ſigned on *Saturday* laſt the 17*th*. This was done, and the States on *Monday* reſolved to exchange their Ratifications with *France*; but at the ſame time to declare, that it was upon condition of their performing the Treaty with *Spain*; if not, this between them and *France* to be void. Before this, they reſolved likewiſe to give Mr. *Hyde* and me their formal Anſwer to his Majeſty's laſt Propoſition; that tho' *France* had ſigned the Treaty with *Spain*, and theirs with *France* would thereupon be ratified, yet they had declared to his Majeſty, it was with this Reſolution; That if *France* either refuſed to ratify their Treaty with *Spain*, or to perform afterwards the Conditions of it, this State ſhould hold, *le cas du dernier traité avec ſa Majeſté pour échû*; and ſhould be ready to perform the Condition of it.

This

This was all the Prince himſelf propoſed to bring it to here, ſince the Game had gone too far to be recovered in any other manner, and the Town of *Amſterdam* was againſt this it ſelf.

Upon the exchange of Ratifications made at *Nimeguen* between *France* and this State on *Wedneſday*, in purſuance of this Anſwer from the States; Mr. *Hyde* embark'd yeſterday Morning for *England*, and with him my Lord *Oſſory*, reſolved to ſee your Grace in *Ireland*, before any Thoughts of returning hither. All that is now left to be done, is to enter into *Guarantees* with this State, for what remains of *Flanders*; and to try if the Progreſs of *France* upon the *Rhine* may be prevented by any ſteps towards a general Peace: The firſt whereof, and which the Prince is much concerned in, has been made already by his Majeſty's Propoſition at *Nimeguen* for a general ſuſpenſion of Arms, which *France* yet refuſes to come to upon the Score of *Sweden*, as they give out; but, as others believe, upon their own.

I am,

My LORD,

Your Grace's, &c.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Octob. 7th. 1678. S. N.

My LORD,

BY my Letter this Ordinary to Mr. *Secretary Williamſon*, your Lordſhip will find an Account of my late Journey to *Amſterdam* and to the Prince at *Hoogſhoore*, about 24 Leagues from this Place, with one part of the Errand that occaſioned it, and the Succeſs of it. There were Two other Occaſions which led me to it, that I thought not fit to mention in a Letter which muſt paſs ſo many Eyes; reſerving them for your ſelf, and by your means for his Majeſty, and Royal Highneſs; ſince one of them had its Riſe in private confidence from the Prince; and the other from your Lordſhip's laſt Letter; wherein you ſeemed ſo deſirous of knowing his Opinion upon Two Points of great conſequence, which I thought it neceſſary you ſhould be ſatisfied in by the Firſt, without attending the Prince's Return, which was like to draw out into ſome length.

Upon

Upon his Highneſs leaving the Town laſt, he very earneſtly recommended to me the making a Journey to *Amſterdam*; not only for diſcovering their Minds there as to the Point of the Guarantee, of which I have given Mr. Secretary an Account; but likewiſe as to the manner they are like to live with the Prince hereafter, now the Peace is made; ſince their Carriage in the late Debate here about *Maeſtricht*, gave the Prince a Suſpicion, that they were reſolved to do it declaredly upon all Occaſions, againſt his Opinion and Intereſts; however United with the Senſe of the other Provinces, and even the reſt of the Towns in this. At leaſt, he believed, Monſieur *Valkener* would act that Part. But that his Highneſs might the better take his Meaſures, he deſired to have ſome certain Light, both as to his particular Reſolutions, and how he was likely to be ſeconded in them by Monſieur *Hoeft*; that is, how far ſupported, or where deſerted in them. For the Town of *Amſterdam* is abſolutely Governed by theſe two Men; without any other Perſon ſo much as pretending at preſent any ſhare in it. I have had long Diſcourſes with them both, and not only together but ſeparately; and as the Prince thinks, very much to the Advantage of his Affairs and Service here.

Monſieur

Monſieur *Valkener* who is a very Thoughtful, Deſigning, and Covered Man; yet went ſo far with me, as to ſay plainly at laſt; That for his part, he ſhould ever ſhew as much Reſpect to his Highneſs's Perſon and Intereſts as any Man in the Country, while he kept within the eſtabliſh'd Conſtitutions of the State; but if upon any Occaſion he ſhould offer to go beyond them, he muſt oppoſe it as far as he could; and believed not only that his Town would do ſo too, but that they would be applauded in it by the other Towns of this Province; who might yet in the States upon other Reſpects give Opinions different from them. That there were two different ſorts of People for the Prince to make uſe of here: One, that were fit to follow him at Court, in his Hunting, and Entertainments: Another that were fit for the Magiſtracy of this Country, and had generally a Reputation not only of good Patriots; but of Men of Ability and Honeſty, and ſuch as the People generally were content to truſt: That he needed not Name any ſuch Men; the Prince could not fail of knowing them: For if he did not by his own obſerving, common Fame would tell him who they were in every Town. And, that if the Prince would have all go eaſy and unanimous

mous here; he muſt, when he had any thing to propoſe in the States, firſt ſend for ſome of theſe Men from the ſeveral Towns, and diſcourſe it with them apart: If he found they agreed in Opinion about it; he might reckon the thing would certainly and eaſily paſs in the States: If they differed, he ſhould then ſend for them to talk it over with them together; and tell them, he found they were of ſeveral Minds, and therefore he deſired they would reaſon it with one another before him; which would produce an Agreement one way or other among them, as well as the Debates here in the States had in a manner ever done: And accordingly his Highneſs might take his certain Meaſures.

Monſieur *Hoeft*, who is a much franker Man, and of greater Credit, tho' leſs Opinion than the other, went farther with me: For, after ſome things of the ſame kind, about the Prince's conſulting with Perſons truſted and eſteemed in their Towns; taking his Meaſures previouſly with thoſe of *Amſterdam* as well as other Towns, which were publickly known to be at his Devotion; not confining his Converſation to very few Perſons and of another ſort, nor the Conſultations of Buſineſs to any one or two Men alone. He ended with me at laſt in this Concluſion; That

nothing

nothing was ſo neceſſary here, as a perfect Union between the Prince and States; and the taking away all Appearance of the leaſt Difference between them; which would but let *France* into the State, by Siding with one Party or other, and with either of them juſt as would ſerve their preſent Turn. That for his part, he was ſo ſenſible of this, and had ſuch an opinion of the Prince, both as to his Moderation, and his Underſtanding his own Intereſt aright, to be perfectly joined with thoſe of the Country: That notwithſtanding all Jealouſies which had unhappily been raiſed here, or might be ſo hereafter, perhaps induſtriouſly; he was abſolutely reſolved, he would truſt the Prince till he ſhould ſee him engaged in Courſes againſt the Intereſts and Liberties of the State. That, in ſuch a caſe, he ſhould enter into the *bonne partie*, and oppoſe it according to his Duty: But that in the mean time, he would not go about to hurt both his Country and the Prince too, by encreaſing any Difference between them, upon Suſpicions or Jealouſies that he did not ſee a plain Ground for.

As to particular Occaſions of Difference between the Prince and States now after the Peace, he would not ſee any; unleſs it ſhould happen about a ſecond Reduction

of

of the Army, and to ſuch a Proportion as might be maintained by the Ordinary Revenue of the Country. But when I told him, the Time of propoſing this was chiefly conſiderable; whether before they ſhould ſee the general Peace made, or *France* likewiſe begin to diſarm: And upon this it ſelf, they ought to debate the whole Thing privately with the Prince of *Orange* before they brought it into the States: He told me, he thought I had Reaſon, and he ſhould be of that Mind: And ended with ſaying many things of the greateſt eſteem that could be of the Prince, and very much Kindneſs to his Perſon and Intereſts: Deſiring me to give his Highneſs the aſſurance of it,

Upon my report of all this to the Prince, he ſeemed to be extreamly pleaſed with it; and ſaid, I had made a Journey to mighty good purpoſe: And he ſhould make ſo good uſe of it, that he doubted not, to be able to give a good Account of this Country, as to what ſhould be their Part in the general Concerns of *Chriſtendom*, provided his Majeſty would be but *Steddy* in the purſuit of his Meaſures here.

After this I ſhewed him your Lordſhip's Letter, deſiring to know his Opinion about his Majeſty's reconciling with *France* in ſomething about *Sweden*; and entring into

into Meaſures with them in behalf of that Crown; and likewiſe about a Match with that King to Lady *Anne*; in caſe it ſhould be purſued. The Prince read it twice over, and very thoughtfully: And after ſome Pauſe, ſaid that he could not tell on the ſudden, what to think of this Letter. That, upon his firſt reading of thoſe Lines about reconciling with *France* in ſomething of *Sweden*; he was as much amazed as the *Stag* was that day at the firſt Blow that was given him. That he had no reaſon to believe by the laſt Letters he received from the Duke or from your Lordſhip, that there was any Change in our Councils in *England*, from the late Meaſures we had taken, of preſerving *Europe* from the Deſign of *France* upon it. That, yet he could not imagine, how any Body ſhould think we could reconcile with *France* for reſtoring *Sweden*; without breaking all the Meaſures we had lately taken, and returning abſolutely into our former ones with *France*. That this was certainly an Artifice of the *French*, who ſaw they could not cloſe with us directly upon any thing between our ſelves; and ſo they would ground it upon the Buſineſs of *Sweden*; which would be in effect the ſame thing, and bring the Buſineſs of *Europe* juſt where it was four or five years ago. That *Sweden* made no

Peace,

Pace, nor uſed no Language but as they were directed by *France*; and ſo he was ſure they were in this. That the Effect of any ſuch Agreement between us and *France*, would be, the King's wholly loſing all his Credit not only with the Empire and *Spain*, as returning into the *French* Intereſts, by embracing thoſe of *Sweden*, which were wholly joined with them; but it would likewiſe ſhake it here too, and make them return to the Opinion they have ſo long had in this Country; that the King would never heartily break from *France*: And that the Effect of this would be, to make the States run into the Intereſts of that Crown; as a thing which muſt befall them, and without Remedy. And that nothing could be more ruinous than this to the Affairs of his Majeſty here; nor to thoſe particularly of his Highneſs. That upon any Meaſures which could be taken between his Majeſty and *France* for the reſtoring *Sweden*: The firſt Action on the *French* ſide muſt be the Invading *Cleve* and *Weſel*, and the reſt of the Duke of *Brandenburgh*'s Territories adjoyning; which will not only let in the *French* into the Empire on that Side, but make them in as great a Meaſure Maſters of this Country (of which *Cleves* and *Juliers* have ever been eſteemed the very Key) as they

they could have been by their Conqueſts in *Flanders*. And that his Highneſs does not apprehend how his Majeſty can take part in ſuch an Action; and which muſt have Conſequences ſo directly oppoſite to all the Meaſures he has lately taken, and to the Offers he has made this State about the ſecurity of *Cleves* and *Juliers*. That, as far as his Highneſs underſtands; his Majeſty's Intereſts, and that of the Crown of *England*, are, after the Peace to enter into ſuch Meaſures with this State, the Emperor, and the Princes of the Empire, as may preſerve *Flanders*, and keep *France* from overturning the World any farther: To live fairly with *France*, but to enter into no new Meaſures with them: So that upon any ill Talent of *France*, about what his Majeſty has already done in the ſaving *Flanders*; he may have the Empire ready to fall into his Intereſts, as he has this State already engaged by a defenſive League in caſe of *France*'s attacking us. And for *Sweden*, he does not ſee how his Majeſty can go farther than to induce them firſt to a Suſpenſion of Arms, and afterwards to ſome reaſonable Terms in a Peace.

That, for the Match between that King and Lady *Anne*; his Highneſs knows nothing againſt it, if the King and Duke think it fit; unleſs it be the Time of either doing

doing or treating it; which he believes cannot be before the general Peace is made; becauſe it will otherwiſe have thoſe Effects before mentioned, eſpecially if accompanied by Engagements with *France*; unleſs it ſhould be treated upon the foot of *Sweden*'s conſenting to ſuch Terms of a Peace, as the Confederates ſhould be likely to fall in with.

This was the Subſtance of the ſeveral and large Diſcourſes which his Highneſs made me upon this Occaſion, and with much Concernment; deſiring me to repreſent them to your Lordſhip at large, as he would write in ſhort his Thoughts to you upon them by this Poſt.

After this he took notice of the Paſſage in your Lordſhip's Letter, about the King intending to command my Return in a ſhort time: And ſaid upon it, that it could not be fit at the preſent; but that he would talk with me about the Time of it after the Evacuation of the Places in *Flanders*, and the Treaty of Guarantee here ſhould be finiſhed: Which being the firſt Steps after the Peace; would be of the greateſt Importance; and declare the Intention of this State, as to their Meaſures hereafter with *England* and with *France*. That whenever I left this Poſt, it would be abſolutely neceſſary for his Majeſty to have an Ambaſſa-

dor here, and not a leſs Character; ſince the *French* were reſolved ever to have one, and that it would extreamly import his Highneſs, what ſort of Perſon he ſent over: For unleſs it ſhould be one that might live in Confidence with him, and have Credit in the Country here; 'twere better have none at all.

I am, &c,

To the Duke of *YORK*.

Hague, Octob. 11*th.* S. N. 1678.

May it pleaſe Your Highneſs,

I Received yeſterday morning by Mr. *White*, the Honour of a Letter from your Highneſs, with a Command which it will be very Difficult to perform here: I mean, that of helping her Highneſs to be incognito in this place. The Prince being yet abſent, and the Penſioner too; I ſpoke of it to Monſieur *Van Lewen*; who was hard to be perſuaded, that the Honours due to her Highneſs by the States upon ſuch Occaſion, ſhould not be performed ſolemnly at her landing. But having acquainted

ted him with the abſoluteneſs of your Highneſs's Commands, both by your Letter, and particularly by Mr. *White*: I prevailed with him to make no mention of it in the States, till the Prince's Return: And this I hope may be to night, or to morrow at fartheſt.

For a Houſe to receive her Highneſs and Lady *Anne* with their Attendance, there was no Choice at all in it. And ſo the Princeſs Dowager's Houſe is making ready for this purpoſe; and will, I doubt not, be in order by to morrow. I could not perſuade Sir *Gabriel Sylvius* and Mr. *White* to allow me any other Part in this Care, beſides leaving the whole Houſe empty; which I did early this morning, and them with the Prince's Servants in all the Diligence that could be, of preparing it for her Highneſs's Reception; who beſides the Honour of ſuch a piece of Gallantry, will have certainly a very great Satisfaction in ſeeing here ſuch a Princeſs, as in all kinds I do believe is very hard to be ſeen any where elſe. I wiſh the Weather but as fair as the Wind, and then I hope this Adventure will be very ſoon and very happily atchieved.

I beg your Highneſs's Leave upon this Occaſion, to give you an account of another Command, I received from your High-

neſs at my coming away: Which was, to ſpeak at large to the Prince about ſome Particulars in his way of living and converſing here, that your Highneſs thought of great Conſequence to his Affairs in this Country. I did not find an Opportunity that made way for it till now of late, ſince Matters here ſeemed to fix a little upon the Concluſion of the Peace with *Spain*, which gave his Highneſs occaſion of Diſcourſing with me ſeveral times upon this new Scene of Affairs; and employing my Offices to diſcover how the Town of *Amſterdam* was like to live with him after the Peace. I gave my Lord Treaſurer by laſt Poſt a large Account of what had paſſed between me and the two ruling *Burgomaſters* there upon this Subject: And ſhall now only add to it; that having repreſented all that Matter to the Prince at *Hoogezoere*, and upon that Occaſion, the whole Scope of your Highneſs's Thoughts; he ſeemed extreamly ſatisfied with both: And aſſured me, that as there were many Applications which might be made in a time of Peace, and could not, while his Thoughts were wholly taken up with the War; ſo he ſhould not now neglect them, tho' he might hitherto have done it. That he ſhould fall into a new *Plye*; and that he doubted not, to give a good Account

of

of this State in all the publick Concernments of *Chriſtendom*, if his Majeſty could reſolve to be *Steddy* in the Meaſures he had fallen into of late.

I ſhould not have given your Highneſs ſo long a Trouble, but that I thought you would not be diſpleaſed with the Knowledge of this Particular; and in it, my Obedience to that Command of your Highneſs, of writing without Ceremony. I am very confident you will believe it to be without any at all; when I aſſure your Highneſs of my being ever with the greateſt Paſſion and Truth that can be,

SIR,

Your Highneſs's &c.

To my Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Decemb. 6th. S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

I Was ſo infinitely obliged by the Kindneſs and Confidence of a Letter, I had this day the honour of receiving from your Lordſhip by Mr. *Hales*; that I could not delay the acknowledging of it by this Poſt; tho', to do that as I ought, will, I doubt, be as hard as to deſerve it. And I fear, to interrupt your Lordſhip at a time ſo buſy as this, will be a greater Fault than any Omiſſion would have been. I had not before any true Proſpect of the preſent Scene: And tho' your Lordſhip has given me ſo much Light, yet it ſerves rather to repreſent the Sadneſs of it, than to diſcover any Remedy to ſuch fatal Diſtempers as have been long breeding; and are now ſo violently broken out in our poor unfortunate Nation. God alone can be the Phyſician, who governs the Hearts of Princes, and the Humours of People: For, to think of Advice from any other, in ſo many croſs Accidents both at home and abroad, as meet to make up this violent

Criſis,

Crisis, is too great a Compliment to put upon any Man; And if your Lordſhip could hope for it, in my Opinion, it ought to be from your ſelf, who have beſt been able to obſerve the Spring and Growth of this Diſtemper, with the Diſpoſitions of the Body; and by that, as well as by your own natural Prudence, muſt be fitter than any other Perſon to make a Judgment upon it. For my own part, it would be more Preſumption in me than in any Man to offer at it, upon many Regards: Beſides that of the Diſtance I am at, and have been ſo long and ſo often for a great part of my Life. Nor do I know one Quality to make me fit for it, unleſs it be, not only as near and as ſenſible, but as unpaſſioned and as unintereſſed Concernment in the true good and Service of my Maſter and my Country, as any Man can have. And for this Reaſon, and becauſe your Lordſhip hath uſed many times to ask me ſo kindly, and hear me ſo favourably upon ſmaller Occaſions; and becauſe I take you to be equally concerned with the Publick in this: It ſhall go hard but I will find a way of telling your Lordſhip by ſome Hand or other, and in very few Words; all that I have been able to think upon it: Which can do no Hurt, becauſe you may forget it as ſoon as 'tis done.

For any Accounts of Foreign Affairs, which your Lordſhip might have expected if I had come over: The whole Courſe of my Diſpatches ſince I left *England* laſt, will better inform any body than I my ſelf could do; as having been conſtant and particular, and thereby containing many things I have forgot. For the Queſtion you are pleas'd to ask about the Peace; I cannot add one Word to that ſhort Account your Lordſhip will meet with in my Letter this Poſt, to Sir *Joſeph Williamſon*; unleſs it be, that nothing ſeems to me at preſent ſo neceſſary in the Foreign Affairs; as for his Majeſty to diſpatch away ſome Miniſter to *Spain*, whoſe chief Inſtruction ſhould be, to watch any Motion of Councils or Negotiations there for the Exchange of *Flanders*: To divert them from any ſuch Thoughts by the greateſt Aſſurance of his Majeſty's reſolving to take it into his conſtant Care and Protection: And ſo to repreſent the State of our preſent Diſorders themſelves, as not to diſhearten that Court in the hopes, that his Majeſty may yet be able to perform effectually what he intends and promiſes in that Matter. I think the Diſpatch of this ſo much the more neceſſary, becauſe I doubt, the preſent Miniſter there may, in this Conjuncture be a very ill Inſtrument in ſuch an Affair; and be poſſibly inclined

to promote other Ends in what concerneth that very Buſineſs of *Flanders*, and any Exchange of it.

For Mr. *M*—— ; I have neither deſerved ſuch Offices your Lordſhip ſpeaks of ; nor ſhall trouble my ſelf about making ſuch Returns. I am infinitely obliged to your Lordſhip for the Enquiries you ſay you will make ; and ſhall be very glad to know my Faults from my Enemies as well as my Friends : Becauſe which way ſoever I find them, I ſhall make the ſame uſe ; that is, to mend them. I ſtand always upon the Ground of having never done either an unjuſt, or ungentlemanly Action in my Life, or an unfaithful one to the Service of my Maſter or my Country. And whoever may be perſuaded otherwiſe of me, by Whiſperers or Malice ; I ſhall leave to their own Opinions, till they pleaſe to make fair Enquiries : And concern my ſelf no farther in them nor the Conſequences. Having I thank God, at heart ; neither Hopes to ſerve, nor Faults to anſwer for.

As to Sir *H*---*C*---. I ſhould be very ſorry to think he meant ill to the Crown or Kingdom ; becauſe I always thought otherwiſe of him, and cannot reproach my ſelf to have often been deceived by my Friends, and whenever I am ; believe I have not more reaſon to quarrel with them ; than

with

with my ſelf for chuſing them. For his Unkindneſs to me, I will at leaſt be as juſt, as I deſire others to be to me; which is, to hear firſt what he ſaith of it, before I Judge. For any to your Lordſhip, I ſhall not eaſily forgive; becauſe I do not think you have deſerved it upon any publick Conſiderations, which are all that ſhould lead him in his preſent Figure. For, if your Lordſhip had not ſerved his Majeſty, and the true Intereſts of his Crowns, with perfect good Intention to both; and the beſt of your Power; you have I am ſure, deceived me; which few of my Friends, I confeſs, have done: And I am confident your Lordſhip will never be of the number.

I am,

My LORD,

Your, &c.

To

To Sir *Joſeph Williamſon.*

Hague, Decem. 30. 1678. S. N.

SIR,

SInce my Laſt of the 27*th*, I have none from you, the contrary Winds having now left Three Pacquets due from *England*. All the Towns of *Holland* have agreed to the Advice of the States General about deferring the Reform as I mentioned in my Laſt, except *Amſterdam* alone. What their Anſwer will prove at laſt I cannot yet tell, nor whether one man alone, as the Head of a ſingle Town, will ſet up directly againſt all the other Towns of this Province, as well as againſt all the other Provinces; and in a Matter appearing to them of ſo great importance to the State. For tho' the Peace be made both by this State and *Spain*, and tho the *French* have yet raiſed no Difficulties upon reſtoring the Towns to the *Spaniards*, yet they have declared, They intended to keep their Forces in *Flanders* till they are ſatisfied in what they demand as remaining due of their Contributions, which amounts to near two Hundred Thouſand *Piſtols*. And for this Country, tho' they have delivered up *Maeſtriche*,

eſtricht, yet they have demanded *Haſſelt* and *Maſeyck*, by which it would be cut off from the reſt of theſe Territories, and have this Week poſted themſelves between *Maeſtricht* and *Haſſelt* on one ſide, and *Maeſtricht* and *Maſeyck* on the other; ſo as neither Boat nor Waggon can go from theſe Provinces to *Maeſtricht*, but muſt paſs thro' their Quarters; and that Town is not yet provided in any proportion of Cannon or Magazins neceſſary for their defence. Beſides, it is known here, that, the *French* Miniſters and Officers lye ready to take into their Service immediately all the Troops which this State ſhall disband; and the laſt Letters from their Ambaſſadors at *Paris*, gave them yet farther Apprehenſions of the Conduct they are to expect from the *French*. For *Monſieur Boreel*, who is of *Amſterdam*, and was deep in the Cabal of promoting the Peace, writes plainly, That he expects nothing from that *Courte* upon any of their Pretenſions, that they were grown ſo inſolent with their Proſperity, and the ill Poſture of all their Neighbours, as not to trouble themſelves with giving Reaſons, or receiving them upon any Thing They treated. To this in general he writes Two Particulars that were ſomething more ſurprizing; The Firſt was, That *Monſieur Pompone* had

Mr. Secretary Williamſon.

had told him, That the King his Maſter had ordered him to take notice of the Prince having turned out the *Catholick* Magiſtrates at *Maeſtricht*, and put in *Proteſtants* in their room, as a Thing contrary to his Treaty with this State. The Second, That *Monſieur de Louvoy* had told him upon diſcourſe of the remaining Contributions of *Breda*, that the King his Maſter had heard what the Prince of *Orange* had ſaid to the States in the Deliberations upon that Matter. *Et le trouvoit mauvais & que le Prince avoit parlé trop fierement.* Upon the firſt Point, the States Deputies thought fit to diſcharge the Prince by taking upon themſelves what he had only acted by their Orders, and to defend their having acted nothing contrary to the Treaty, or innovated any Thing in Matter of Religion at *Maeſtricht*; but that on the other ſide, the *French* had no right to concern themſelves in what the States did in the Government of a Town which was now become again their own. Upon the Second Point, which touched only the Prince, his Highneſs ſaid, That tho' the States knew he had never ſpoke any Thing upon that Occaſion, which might deſerve that Term, yet he was of opinion no Anſwer ſhould be made upon it; That he was born in a Free Republick, and that it had ſo continu'd hitherto. He could not tell how

long

long it might do ſo, at the rate they were now treated, but that while he lived in it, he would, according to his Duty, give his Advice, and ſpeak his Opinion freely in it, without giving account to any of what he ſaid, but to God alone.

Theſe Particulars have yet gone no farther than the Deputies of Foreign Affairs, and ſo you will pleaſe may not yet be publick; but they have occaſioned very Melancholick Reflections among them, conſidering what a condition this Peace has already brought them into, and what farther Conſequences they may expect of it, upon the unhappy Poſture of Affairs in *England*, from whence alone they were to hope for ſupport. You will gueſs by your Diſpatches this Poſt from *Nimeguen*, at leaſt, as well as we can hear what iſſue may be expected from the Parties beginning to enter into Conference there. For my parr, I am able to make no conjecture, nor whether a Peace with the Emperor will contribute to the Safety, or increaſe the Danger of theſe Countries, and the *Spaniſh Netherlands*, if the *French* Army continue poſſeſſed of *Liege* and the otherParts neceſſary for their making War upon the Duke of *Brandeburgh*, as they pretend in favour of the *Swedes*.

I am ever, &c.

To

To Sir *Loyonel Jenkins.*

Hague, Jan. 20th. S. N. $167\frac{8}{9}$

My LORD,

I Have this Morning your Letters of yesterday's Date, with the incloſed Papers, by which I am apt to conjecture, That the Peace between the Emperor and *France* is drawing towards a Period; and very probably by the laſt of this Month, being the Term laſt limited by *France* upon the preſent Conditions: I ſhall therefore prepare my ſelf for my Journey towards you, and begin it when you find it neceſſary for me, *to aſſiſt at the ſigning of the Peace, and what other Acts ſhall neceſſarily require a Quorum of our Commiſſion.* Which are the Words of the Order I received upon this Occaſion in a Letter from Mr. *Secretary Williamſon*, dated the 29*th* of *October* paſt.

Your Lordſhip I find apprehends whether you ſhall have notice given you by the Parties, of their concluding the Affair time enough to give me warning for my Journey; which with the other Complaints you make of the little Confidence you are in with them, makes me doubt whether their In-

Intentions be, that we ſhould ſign or no: For by their own firſt Draught of the Preface, it was plain they did not intend it: And tho' your Lordſhip received Orders upon that Point, *To make no Difficulty to ſign as Mediators*, in Mr. *Secretary*'s Letter to you of *October* 29*th*, and farther Orders about the Part his Majeſty expected in the Style of the Preface, by his Letter of *December* 3*d*, yet I do not find by any of your Letters, that the Parties have either expreſſed their Deſire or Intention, that we ſhould ſign as Mediators, or their aſſent to what your Lordſhip propoſed as to his Majeſty's Part in the Preface. I have other Reaſons to be a little doubtful how this Matter may paſs, and one particularly this very Morning from *Monſieur d' Avaux*, having ſaid in a Conference with the Deputies of this State upon Diſcourſe of the Treaty; That the Parties now treating being of the ſame Religion, the whole Buſineſs was in the Nuncio's hands. I have likewiſe the Opinions of others here beſide my own; That it would be to expoſe the King's honor too much, for me to go expreſly upon the Place to ſign the Treaty, and when I came there, not to be admitted to it. Therefore, to clear all this Matter, I humbly offer to your Lordſhip, whether ſeeing the preſent Approaches between the Parties, you will

not take occaſion to let them know, That having formerly acquainted them with the Orders you had received, to be ready to ſign the Treaty; and with the Part his Majeſty pretended in that Caſe to have in the Preface: And finding it neceſſary by our Commiſſion, that Two of us ſhould be preſent at the Act, you deſire to know both their Intenſion upon it, and the time they are like to be ready; to the end you may give me notice early enough not to fail attending that Service according to the Order you know I have received. They cannot, I ſuppoſe, make any ſcruple to give you a clear and plain Anſwer to ſuch a reaſonable Queſtion; and thereupon your Lordſhip's Meaſures and mine will be eaſily taken: For your Lordſhip, I know, will not fail of giving me Advice by the firſt; and I ſhall not, God willing, fail of beginning my Journey accordingly. In caſe any thing ſhould happen to make them ſign of the ſudden, without warning to either of us; I ſuppoſe if they deſire we ſhould have our Parts in it, room may be left for the Mediators to ſign afterwards; ſince it is not a Thing material as to the force of the Treaty between the Parties. If they will underſtand it otherwiſe, I ſuppoſe it will be to avoid our Signing, in the civileſt manner they can. For, upon the whole, the Judg-

ment which is here made of this Treaty, is, That neither of them like it: And tho' it is neceſſity alone which could have brought the Emperor to theſe Terms, yet *France* is perfectly taken at their Word, and is ſenſible enough of the Advantages they are like to loſe in not purſuing the War with the Emperor, now *Spain* and the Country are out of it.

I am ever, &c.

Poſtſcript.

I Deſire, what I ſay of *Monſieur d' Avaux* having told the Deputies this Morning, may not be taken notice of, becauſe it was given me by one of them in Confidence.

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Jan. 24th. S. N. 1679.

My LORD,

I Had the Honour of one from your Lordſhip of the *7th*; and deferred not upon receipt thereof, to make that uſe of it here, which you intended; and was indeed in a manner neceſſary for his Majeſty's Service and Juſtification as well as your Lordſhip's. I communicated the firſt part of it to ſome of the States who are in chief Credit here; and to the Imperial and *Spaniſh* Miniſters, who all took notice of thoſe Clauſes in it; which ſhewed how great Advantages might have been made by bargaining for any Towns: How no Conditions were propoſed but ſuch as were approved by *Spain* and *Holland*; and how the Thoughts of making any Advantages of that it ſelf, were entertained only at the Perſuaſion of Mr. *M---e*. And in the ſeveral Converſations I have had upon this Subject here, I may aſſure your Lordſhip all was done with the ſucceſs you deſired. For the Prince, who was gone from *Utrecht* to *Arnheim*, about the Time I received your Lordſhip's Diſpatch, I thought

there could be no way ſo good of performing your Commands towards his Highneſs, as by ſending him the Letter it ſelf, by which he would beſt ſee how much you were concerned both in his good Opinion, and in his particular Affair of the Money due to him; which I am ſure could not have been by me ſo well expreſſed as in your Words. You will before this time have been fully ſatisfied by the Letter I ſent you incloſed, how much the Prince was concerned in your part, of what lately happened in *England*; and how little reaſon you had to apprehend any Change of his Highneſs's Opinion in what concerned your Lordſhip upon that Occaſion. And I know very well he writ that Letter with kinder Intentions than only of making you a Compliment at that Time. For the Money, he never ſaid one word of it to me in ſeveral Converſations about theſe Matters, farther than complaining of his own ill Luck, ſince he was ſure to have received it within four or five days, at the time when that Trouble was given your Lordſhip there; which he reckoned upon as what muſt certainly delay it, till ſome better Settlement in his Majeſty's Affairs, and eſpecially that of the Revenue.

Having acquitted my ſelf of the Duty I owed your Lordſhip upon that firſt part of your Letter; I find another I owe to his Ma-

Majeſty upon the latter; of which I deſpair of being able to acquit my ſelf as I ought to do, or as the ſenſe of ſo great a Favour juſtly obliges me to. The Diſtinction his Majeſty is pleaſed to make between me and other Men, both in eſteeming me fit for the diſcharge of ſo great a Truſt, and in offering to be himſelf at the charge of Mr. *Secretary Coventry*'s retiring out of it, is what I am ſure, I ſhall never live to forget; tho' I can never hope to deſerve: and therefore muſt beg of your Lordſhip to aſſiſt me in making the heartieſt and humbleſt Acknowledgments to his Majeſty, that any Servant can make to the beſt Maſter in the World. After this is done, I am very ſorry that I muſt make ſo True and Plain a Confeſſion of my ſelf as I am forced to do upon this Occaſion. If I found my ſelf capable of doing his Majeſty the Service that would become me in ſuch a Poſt, I ſhould eſteem it the greateſt, and indeed the only happineſs that could befall me at this Time, and in the poor Remainders of my Life. But the ſenſible Decays I feel of late in my ſelf, and which muſt increaſe every Day with my Age and ill Health, make me abſolutely deſpair of acquitting my ſelf as I ought, and, would be neceſſary for his Majeſty's Service in a Poſt that requires not only great Abilities, but good Health, and all the Appli-

cation that can be; neither of which I can any ways promiſe either his Majeſty or my ſelf. And I may pretend to be ſo honeſt a man, as never to make ſo ill a Bargain for ſo good a Maſter; which would be like ſelling him a Horſe very dear, that I knew to be old and reſty, and not at all fit for the Service he deſigned him. I beg your Lordſhip to repreſent this to his Majeſty, not as an affected Modeſty, nor as a Speaker's Form of diſabling himſelf when he is choſen. For your Lordſhip may pleaſe to remember, I writ the ſame Thing to you ſix Months ago: And Mr. *Hyde* knows very well the Thoughts of this kind he both found and left me in at his laſt being here. The Seaſon I have ſince paſſed in a Place ſo unkind to my Health, has given me a great deal of reaſon to continue them, and to think my ſelf not at all fit to enter upon ſo great and laborious an Employment, or even to continue this longer than the Spring; beyond which Time I can foreſee little uſe his Majeſty can have of me here. And whenever he ſhall pleaſe to end it, I doubt not but he will give me leave to ſeek for a little better Health in ſome warmer Climate; and I am ſure he ſhall never find a better Subject, how uſeleſs a Servant ſoever I may have been; and that none ſhall ever make more paſſionate Wiſhes for his Happineſs and

Safety,

Safety, than I ſhall do all the days of my Life.

I cannot end this without making your Lordſhip likewiſe my particular Acknowledgments for your Favour and good Opinion, which I ſhall ever eſteem among my beſt Poſſeſſions. But having had the Honour of your agreeing ſo often with me in what we have talked of, I cannot but be confident, that if you knew me as well as I do my ſelf, you would be perfectly of my Mind in this Matter, as I ſhould be of yours if I found my ſelf indeed what Your Lordſhip is pleaſed to eſteem me. That which I hope we both agree in is, the Belief that you can never meet with a greater and ſincerer Paſſion than that wherewith I have been ſo long, and ſhall be

Yours, &c.

To Sir *Joseph Williamson.*

Rhenen, Feb. 6th. S. N. 1679.

SIR,

UPon this day Sennight I received at the *Hague* an Expreſs from Sir *L. Jenkins*, preſſing me to come away immediately to *Nimeguen*, upon the aſſurance he then had the Treaty would be ſigned there the next Day, and that my preſence would be neceſſary to make up a Commiſſion at that time. Whereupon finding my Orders expreſs in that caſe, I parted the ſame day from the *Hague*, and made a ſhift to get to *Nimeguen* the next, being *Tueſday* at Night. The *Thurſday* following I went to the Prince of *Orange* at *Arnheim*, upon a Letter from his Highneſs, and returned ſo late that Night, as to have no part in the Diſpatch by that Ordinary, which was the 2*d.* I have miſt ſince my laſt to you from the *Hague*. I communicated to his Highneſs the Orders I received by yours, of the 14*th* paſt, which came to me the day after my Arrival at *Nimeguen*. He was very ready to perform the part his Majeſty expected from him upon that occaſion, but ſaid, I

know

knew very well he had never been able to hinder Libels and Paſquins from being Printed here againſt himſelf, and ſo could not aſſure me of hindring them againſt his Majeſty, but that he would endeavour it, and hoped he might be able to do it at *Utrecht*, but adviſed me to addreſs my ſelf to the Magiſtrates of *Amſterdam*, where he could not undertake for it, He took occaſion to tell me, That the Penſioner of *Amſterdam* had been with him the day before, upon the election of the Schepers for this Year; That falling into the Diſcourſe of the Affairs of *England*, he had told him, That the General Report and Belief at *Amſterdam* was, that the great Preparations made by *France* in their Sea-Ports, were to make the King Maſter of his Parliament; and that was the Reaſon we took no notice of them in *England*. I took this for a Libel ſpread here by the ſame hands from which you expected they ſhould be ſent and printed to be ſpread in *England*; but the Prince ſaid, he had reaſon to believe it was given out by the *French*, to damp all hopes that this State might have of any ſupport from *England*: And that he had received Two Letters upon the ſame Subject from *Amſterdam*, before the Penſioner of that Town had told him of it. I ſhall not need tell you of the Peace having been ſign'd laſt

Night

Night about 10 of the Clock, between the Emperor and *France*, and agreed to be ſo this Day between the *Imperialiſts* and *Swedes*: You will know the whole courſe of that Affair with all Circumſtances by an Expreſs this day from my Colleague, and how unneceſſary a Journey I have made in the worſt Seaſon that I ever felt; and upon pure obedience to the Orders you ſent me: For I had no reaſon to think the Imperialiſts would yield a Point they had ever conteſted, and therefore I had deſired my Colleague to inform himſelf of it before he ſent for me. 'Tis now paſt, and I have only reaſon to be ſatisfied that all was agreed to by the Parties which you ſeem'd to deſire for his Majeſty's Honour in the Preface, as well as for his Incluſion in the Treaty. This Morning I left *Nimeguen*, and thought to have reach'd *Utrecht* this Night, but the Ways are almoſt impaſſable for a Coach by the great drifts of Snow; ſo that all I can hope for, is, to be there to morrow Night. From thence I reſolve to go to *Amſterdam*, and ſpeak with the Magiſtrates in both Places about ſearching and preventing what you apprehend from thoſe Preſſes: And becauſe I am not like to be in *Holland* time enough for next Ordinary, I diſpatch this away to *Utrecht*

by

by Expreſs, in hopes it may get time enough to the *Hague*, to go away with the Ordinary to morrow Night, that ſo you might know ſomething of my motions, as well as of my late Omiſſions, which have been occaſioned by them.

I am ever, &c.

To

To My Lord Treafurer.

Hague, February 21ſt. S. N. 1679.

My LORD,

HAving ſince my laſt had ſeveral Occaſions of diſcourſing with the Prince upon the Subject of your Lordſhip's laſt Letter; and the Account you were pleaſed to give there both of his Majeſty's Conduct and your own, in thoſe Negotiations which were ſo much talked on of late, his Highneſs was very full in his Expreſſions of juſtifying your Lordſhip upon having done nothing but with his Majeſty's Order even in Writing; and could not talk of Mr. *M*----'s part in it, without the greateſt Indignation in the World. For the Thing it ſelf, he would ſay little, but that it was paſt, and ſo 'twas to no purpoſe to talk of it. That no body had any thing left to do ſince the Peace, but to play an ill Game the beſt they could, and ſo he reſolved to do here; but nothing he could now do would ſignify much towards the Common Safety, unleſs *England* could grow into a Poſture of being more united

at

at home, and more conſidered abroad, than they ſeemed likely to be by the preſent Courſe of our Affairs, which he ever talks of with great Concernment. Since the Commiſſion I received to go again to *Nimeguen*, to continue there the Figure of his Majeſty's Mediation, upon the recalling of Sir *Lyonel Jenkins*; he was very inquiſitive into the Reaſon of it; which I could not give him: Having received barely a Commiſſion to act alone in that Function, and three Lines only from Mr. *Secretary Williamſon*, to tell me, he had ſent it by his Majeſty's Order. All we could gueſs was the Deſign of ſparing ſo much Money, by ending Mr. *Hyde's*, and Sir *Lyonel's* Ambaſſy, now the Peace was ſo near concluded; and continuing mine only for the Decency of the Mediation, till the Aſſembly ſhould break up. And the Prince ſaid upon it, That he hoped however, the King might make ſome good uſe of it; and ſince the Peace of the *North* would certainly be made, now the Emperors was ſo, he thought it would be very much better, that his Majeſty ſhould make it than *France*, eſpecially that between *Brandenburg* and *Sweden*; and thereby endeavour to draw ſome dependance of thoſe Two Princes upon him-

himſelf after the Peace; which he doubted would otherwiſe fall on *France*: He ſaid beſides, That he would think of this Matter within Two or Three Days, and tell me, if not write into *England* what ſhould occur to him upon it before I went to *Nimeguen*. And that the ſooner the Peace of the *North* was now made, the better: That *France* might thereby have no longer a Pretext of keeping the Seven Towns in *Cologn*, *Juliers*, and *Liege*; whereby they are poſted ſo as to awe this Country and *Flanders*, and to be ready for any new Deſign upon them.

In this Conference, and one before, his Highneſs deſired me to write to your Lordſhip, and put you in mind of his Money; concerning which you had expreſs'd ſo great Concernment in your Laſt to me. His Highneſs ſaid, He did not doubt but this Sum might be eaſily advanced upon that Act which provided for it, in caſe the whole Security were not engaged ſome other ways, which he hoped Your Lordſhip has had the Kindneſs and Juſtice to prevent.

In the midſt of your Lordſhip's great Affairs, I know very well I ought to give you as few and as ſhort Troubles as I can; and therefore ſhall not lengthen this beyond the Aſſurances of my being ever,

My LORD,

Your, &c.

To

To the Earl of S-------d.

Hague, Feb. 28*th.* S. N. 1679.

My LORD,

ON *Saturday* laſt I received the honour of one from your Lordſhip of the 11*th*; and this Morning another of the 14*th*; both of them bringing me his Majeſty's Command for my immediate Return; and the Laſt, a Letter of Revocation to the States General. I have this Afternoon communicated both to the Prince; who finding me preſs'd to make ſo much diligence in my Journey, has made it formally his Deſire to me, that I will go away, without taking notice here of my abſolute Revocation, or thereupon, any formal Leave of the States, which he ſays, may be done as ſoon as I am there, if his Majeſty pleaſes; and about the time my Lord Ambaſſador *Jenkins* ſhall arrive here. His Highneſs takes this to be a Point ſo important to his Majeſty's Service, and to his own Intereſts here at this time, which, he ſays, are the ſame

ame with his Majeſty's, that he is ſure (as he is pleaſed to ſay) the King will give him leave to govern ſuch a Circumſtance as this is; and therefore ſays, He will take it upon himſelf; and his Majeſty will know the Reaſons when I have the Honour to attend him. I confeſs, I could ſee no Prejudice in this to his Majeſty, nor to any unleſs my ſelf, (on the Account of the uſual Preſents upon a Revocation) I therefore conſented to it; and ſhall thereupon be ready, I hope, to embarque to morrow or next day, if Wind and Weather ſuffer me. Though the Prince had not deſired this way of parting, I have another Reaſon would of neceſſity have engaged me to it; which is, my being ſo much indebted here, by not having received my Money ſince my coming over in *July* laſt; that it would have been impoſſible for me to have carried my Goods and Family away from hence, without attending the neceſſary Diſpatches from the Exchequer, which I doubt, by the Style of both Your Lordſhip's Letters, preſſing me to ſo much haſte in my Journey, would not have paſſed with his Majeſty for a good Excuſe of my not coming away.

The Common Occurrences will be tranſmitted to your Lordſhip by Mr. *Meredith*, as has been uſual: So that after having very heartily given Your Lordſhip Joy upon your Entrance into an Employment of ſo great Weight and Conſequence to his Majeſty's Service, with my True Wiſhes of all the Satisfaction that can be from it, both to his Majeſty and your ſelf, I ſhall end with the Profeſſions of,

My being ever, &c.

The

The Private LETTER of the ſame Date, to the Earl of *S--------d.*

I Muſt leave it to Time to tell you, whether your Letter as Secretary of State, and acquainting me with his Majeſty's having ſent for me over to enter upon the ſame Poſt, were as welcome to me as I am ſure it was ſurprizing; after my Preparations and Thoughts had been turned for a Week together to *Nimeguen.* But I cannot forbear aſſuring you in the mean time, that nothing could be welcomer than a ſhort one I received with it from My Lord *Sunderland*; by which I found he was pleaſed with the new Employment, and not unſatisfied with the Proſpect of our Affairs. I take your Lordſhip to be ſo good and univerſal a Judge, that I cannot eaſily believe you ſhould be deceived in what concerns either the Publick or your ſelf; and therefore cannot chuſe but raiſe from it good Preſages to both: Otherwiſe I confeſs, I ſee nothing to change my Opinion of publick Affairs, or my

my Reſolutions as to my own part in them; tho' I find, my Friends have ſo different Thoughts of both. I wiſh I may find any thing to undeceive me when I come over. In the mean time, I ſhould be infinitely glad to contribute more than my Wiſhes towards the Ends you ſeem to propoſe your Selves. And if I could think my ſelf capable of doing it; neither the King nor your Lordſhip would find a truer Servant. In the mean time, I will only ſay; that among all you have, there is none can take more Part in all that concerns your Lordſhip, nor that can be more unfeignedly than I am,

My LORD,

Your, &c.

To My Lord Treaſurer.

Hague, Febr. 28*th.* S. N. 1678.

My LORD,

I Received laſt *Saturday* the Honour of one from your Lordſhip of the 11*th*; which I confeſs, ſurprized me more than any I ever had from you; coming not only after my Orders and Preparations for *Nimeguen*; but after my Wife had told me from your Lordſhip, how all that Affair had paſſed; and after I had written to her, how infinitely ſenſible I was of the Obligations I had to your Lordſhip in the whole Courſe of it; and how perfectly I was ſatisfied as to my ſelf, with the *Plie* it had taken. Time alone muſt tell, if either his Majeſty or I have Reaſon to be ſatisfied with the Change he has ſince made in that Meaſure, which will depend upon the Succeſs of it; and of my being of the Uſe deſigned in ſo great a Poſt, towards thoſe publick Ends that I am confident, your Lordſhip aims at in it, and which none can anſwer for. I wiſh to God I could deſerve half the Honour his Majeſty does me by his good Opinion; for I never

ver can the Kindneſs of your Intention, (whatever may happen) tho' no Man can be more ſenſible than I am of it. For the reſt, I ſhall not trouble your Lordſhip farther with any Diſcourſes upon that Subject, being like to have the Honour of waiting on you ſo ſoon: For I hope, God willing, to go aboard the Yatcht to morrow or *Wedneſday*, if Wind and Weather ſuffer me; and with your Lordſhip's good leave, ſhall make my firſt Step into the *Cockpit*; where you will then find I am ſure a

moſt Humble Servant.

FINIS.